

STARS AND STRIPES[®]

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resurrects the
scary comedy**

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USC quarterback Matt Leinart

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MONDAY, OCTOBER 11, 2004

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and Alex Rodriguez

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JULIANA GITLER/Stars and Stripes

First Lt. Thomas Hernandez, right holding notebook, talks to an Iraqi farmer about flooding on his land near Ash-Shumali, while a translator, center, assists. Hernandez and other members of the 1st Battalion, 185th Airborne Regiment's civil-military operations team spend time interacting with Iraqis, helping to maintain peace in the area.

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News Tracker ... What's new with old news

States

Lori Hacking: Family and friends buried the remains of Lori Hacking on Saturday, eight days after her body was recovered from a landfill in Salt Lake County, Utah.

Police officers who assisted in the search were also invited to the private ceremony at Orem City Cemetery.

Hacking's mother, Thelma Soares, placed a red rose on the casket and hugged Sgt. J.R. Nelson, the Salt Lake City police officer who found the remains while sifting through garbage on Oct. 1.

Enron lawsuit: Galveston County, Texas, has sued former Enron Corp. finance chief Andrew Fastow, claiming he and his wife Lea owe more than \$17,400 in back taxes on a beach home.

The Fastows agreed earlier this year to turn over the vacation home, as well as other properties, to the federal government as part of restitution in Enron-related criminal proceedings.

It was unclear how that agreement will affect the county's efforts to collect taxes on the island home. The Galveston County Daily News reported Saturday.

Fastow pleaded guilty in January to two counts of conspiracy while his wife pleaded guilty in May to a misdemeanor tax crime for helping him hide ill-gotten income from myriad financial schemes that fueled Enron's December 2001 crash.

Serail murder trial: Louisiana prosecutors seeking to link a series of killings to one man presented evidence Saturday that the victims had all apparently been raped and had bruises on their hands as if they had tried to fight off their attacker.

Experts also testified that biological evidence found at the scene of one of the murders matched Derrick Todd Lee's DNA profile.

Prosecutors said they planned to introduce DNA evidence that would connect Lee with three other deaths across southern Louisiana from 1998 to 2003. Lee is on trial for the death of 22-year-old Charlotte Murray Pace, who was found slashed, beaten and stabbed 81 times in May 2002. He has already been convicted of killing another woman.

Mount St. Helens watch: Mount St. Helens in Washington state shot off a new cloud of steam Sunday just as scientists arrived for another day of monitoring the rumbling volcano.

The billow of dark steam rose at dawn from an area of the crater where a large upwelling of rock has been growing rapidly. The plume rose several hundred feet above the 8,364-foot volcano, and light wind slowly blew it toward the south and southeast.

Scientists did not immediately determine whether the steam cloud contained any volcanic ash, said an information officer at a joint information center in Vancouver, Wash., about 50 miles south of the mountain.

The steam emission followed an increase in earthquake activity over the previous two days, with quakes of magnitude 2.4 occurring every two minutes until Sunday, when the vibrations were more frequent but weakened to magnitude 1 or less.

Martha Stewart in jail: Martha Stewart was the picture of loneliness Saturday as she explored the grounds of her new home — a federal prison camp in West Virginia. Stewart, 63, arrived at the camp in Alderson early Thursday morning to begin serv-



Somali election: Somali presidential candidate Abdullahi Yusuf Ahmed, left, stands next to an unidentified election official on Sunday. Members of Somalia's transitional parliament will vote a second time for a new transitional president because none of the 26 contenders got an absolute majority in the first round of voting, the speaker said.

ing a five-month sentence for lying to federal investigators about a stock sale.

Her first hours were filled with humbling orientation chores: getting fingerprinted, a nude inspection and getting a cell.

It was an unpleasant change from her usual schedule of high-powered business meetings and expensive midtown lunches — and Stewart obviously steered herself for the ordeal.

"When she came in, she was in good spirits," a prison staffer told the New York Daily News.

World

Israeli-Palestinian conflict: An Israeli aircraft fired a missile at a home near a Hamas stronghold in the Jebelaya refugee camp on Sunday, killing one civilian and wounding eight other Palestinians, hospital officials said.

It was not immediately clear why the army targeted the house, which was near the Khelifa Mosque, a power base for the militant group Hamas. The army did not immediately comment.

The strike killed a 38-year-old Palestinian civilian and seriously wounded eight other Palestinians, including a girl, hospital officials said. It also caused extensive damage to homes and stores nearby, witnesses said.

Zimbabwe farming dispute: Police have stopped evicting black farmers settled on formerly white-owned land after a court ordered the government to clarify the farmers' status, the state-owned Sunday Mail newspaper reported.

At least 900 black farmers who were resettled under the nation's chaotic land redistribution program have been evicted in recent weeks from farming districts around Harare after government officials said the group was not correctly listed under the program.

The evicted farmers claim the expulsions are part of turf wars between local ruling party officials and other politicians.

At one resettled farm about 60 miles northwest of Harare, riot police last month drove off more than 400 families from small plots they had occupied for three years. Police torched most of the shacks and huts. The High Court on Wednesday ordered police to halt the evictions and allow ousted families to return. The court ordered the government to resolve the allocation of the plots or make alternative arrangements to resettle affected families.

Bangladesh protest: Police armed with batons broke up an anti-government protest march in Dhaka on Sunday, injuring more than 30 demonstrators and arresting at least 100, police said.

The rally in Dhaka was part of a nationwide strike called by Bangladesh's main opposition Awami League party to protest recent attacks on its supporters and pressure the government to resign.

Opposition leaders accuse Prime Minister Khaleda Zia's government of incompetence and widespread corruption — charges which it denies.

The dawn-to-dusk strike also coincided with the anniversary of Zia's third year in office. Sunday is a working day in Muslim-majority Bangladesh.

Chinese skyscraper plans: A pair of Chinese companies have been awarded bids worth \$470 million to build what China is touting as the world's tallest skyscraper in Shanghai, an official newspaper reported Sunday.

The roof of the planned 101-story Shanghai World Financial Center is to rise to 1,624 feet.

That would put it 121 feet higher than the 1,493-foot-tall roof of Taipei 101 in Taiwan, regarded now as the world's tallest skyscraper.

However, the Shanghai Center would still be shorter than Taipei 101, if the Taiwanese building's spire is included, giving it a total height of 1,679 feet spire.

Military

Georgia supply aid: A U.S. military transport plane on Sunday delivered a shipment of uniforms and other military gear worth \$1.1 million to the former Soviet republic's armed forces.

Part of the shipment is intended for Georgian troops who are set to go on a peacekeeping mission in Iraq, said Nita Chikviani, a spokeswoman for the Georgian defense ministry. Georgia, which now has 159 soldiers in Iraq, has pledged to increase their number later this month.

A total of 2,500 Georgian soldiers have received training under the U.S. program, which included instruction in anti-terror techniques. It also provided weapons, uniforms and other supplies.

War on terrorism

Guantanamo tribunal: A U.S. military review tribunal on Saturday considered the legal status of two prisoners at Guantanamo Bay, Cuba, allegedly linked to al-Qaida and two others accused of fighting with the Taliban on the battlefield.

One prisoner, who allegedly saw al-Qaida chief Osama bin Laden while training to fight in Afghanistan, refused to attend his hearing, said Navy Capt. Beci Brenton, a spokeswoman for the Combatant Status Review Tribunals.

The prisoner — the 58th to boycott the proceedings at the U.S. base in Cuba — allegedly fought against U.S. forces in Afghanistan and surrendered during the bombing campaign in Tora Bora, Brenton said.

The three others attended their hearings, but details on their testimony were not provided. The military did not release any nationalities.

Stories and photos from wire reports

Troop cuts could come after Iraq elections

Rumsfeld says level of violence determines if numbers can drop after January vote

By ROBERT BURNS

The Associated Press

AL ASAD AIR BASE, Iraq — The United States may be able to reduce its troop levels in Iraq after the January elections if security improves and Iraqi government forces continue to expand and improve, Defense Secretary Donald Rumsfeld said Sunday.

In a question-and-answer session with hundreds of Marines assembled in an aircraft hangar at this desert air base in western Iraq, Rumsfeld was asked what the future holds for the length and frequency of troop deployments in the country.

Rumsfeld, on his first visit to Iraq since its interim government was installed in June, said the insurgent violence is likely to get worse in the weeks ahead, so troop reductions are unlikely. The United States now has about 135,000 troops in Iraq.

"Our hope is that as we build up Iraqi forces, we will be able to relieve the stress on our forces and see a reduction in coalition forces over some period of time, probably post-Iraq elections," the Pentagon chief said. "But again, I will depend entirely on the security situation here in this country."

Before Rumsfeld appeared at the main operating base of the 3rd Marine Air Wing, the approxi-



Secretary of Defense Donald Rumsfeld speaks to U.S. troops Sunday at Al Asad Air Base in the western Iraqi desert with Iraqi Minister of Defense Nazim al-Sha'lan, left. Rumsfeld, on his first visit to Iraq since its interim government was installed, said the nation's insurgent violence is likely to get worse in the weeks ahead.

mately 1,500 Marines in his audience were given instructions by Sgt. Maj. Dennis Reed on what not to ask.

"Don't ask when you're going home. We'll tell you when you're going home," Reed said.

Rumsfeld then gave a pep talk

and fielded questions at a town-hall-style meeting. "We're so fortunate to be able to count on you in this time of peril," Rumsfeld said to applause.

The secretary later flew to Baghdad and met with U.S. Ambassador John Negroponte; Gen.

George Casey, the top American commander in Iraq; and Lt. Gen. David Petraeus, who is in charge of training and equipping Iraqi security forces.

Accompanying Rumsfeld on the flight in a Black Hawk helicopter was Hazim al-Sha'lan, Iraq's

interim defense minister.

As a reminder of the tenuous security situation in the Iraqi capital, the fleet of Black Hawks carrying Rumsfeld and his entourage flew at high speed, just above rooftop level, occasionally zigzagging en route to the International Zone where the U.S. Embassy is located.

Casey told reporters that he and Rumsfeld did not discuss U.S. troops levels in their meeting.

"If I need more troops, as the secretary said, I will ask for them," he added that the number of trained Iraqi forces is going to increase by 45,000 by election time.

Rumsfeld also met with Ayad Allawi, the interim Iraqi prime minister, at the government's headquarters not far from the U.S. Embassy.

Allawi, referring twice to Rumsfeld as the secretary of state — the job held by Colin Powell — thanked him for the United States' help in giving Iraqis their freedom.

The trip was Rumsfeld's sixth to Iraq but his first to Anbar province, which includes portions of the Sunni Triangle north and west of Baghdad. The region had been the heart of tribal support for deposed President Saddam Hussein.

U.S. deaths in Iraq

The Associated Press

As of Friday, 1,064 members of the U.S. military have died since the beginning of the Iraq war in March 2003, according to the Defense Department. Of those, 809 died as a result of hostile action and 255 died of nonhostile causes. The figures include three military civilians. There was no update provided by the department on Saturday.

The British military has reported 67 deaths; Italy, 19; Poland, 13; Spain, 11; Bulgaria, six; Ukraine, eight; Slovakia, three; Thailand, two; the Netherlands, two; and Denmark, El Salvador, Estonia, Hungary and Latvia have reported one death each.

Since May 1, 2003, when President Bush declared that major combat operations in Iraq had ended, 926 U.S. military members have died — 700 as a result of hostile action and 226 of nonhostile causes, according to the military's numbers as of Friday.

The latest deaths reported by the military:

- No deaths reported.
- The latest identifications reported by the military:
- No identifications reported.

Car bombers strike twice in Baghdad

By ROBERT H. REID

The Associated Press

BAGHDAD — Car bombers struck twice in rapid succession in the Iraqi capital Sunday, killing at least 11 people, including an American soldier, and wounding at least 16.

Iraq's most feared terror group — Tawhid and Jihad — claimed responsibility for the near-simultaneous car bombings, one near an east Baghdad police academy and the other outside an east Baghdad market as an American military convoy was passing by.

An American soldier was fatally injured in the convoy attack, U.S. and Iraqi officials said. One Iraqi was also injured. The Kindi Hospital said it received 10 bodies from the police academy blast, and police said 15 others were injured there.

The dead at Kindi hospital included three police academy students and a female officer.

In a statement posted on the Web, Tawhid and Jihad, led by Jordanian terrorist Abu Musab al-Zarqawi, said the car bombings were carried out by its military wing and were "martyrdom" operations, meaning suicide attacks.

Al-Zarqawi's group also warned it would continue "to slaughter infidels" until the Americans and their Iraqi allies release all women detained in Iraq. The warning was part of a message contained in a videotape posted Sunday on the Web depicting the brutal decapitation of British hostage Kenneth Bigley.

Bigley, whose death was announced by his family Friday, was shown saving for British Prime Minister Tony Blair to shed his life moments before assassins severed his head with a knife. His body has not been found.

The Sunday Times newspaper of London reported Sunday that Bigley was killed after



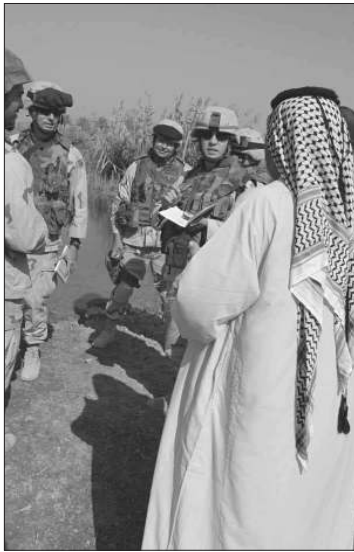
A U.S. soldier attends to an injured Iraqi man Sunday after a minibus packed with explosives detonated near a downtown police academy in Baghdad. Two car bombs shook the Iraqi capital in quick succession Sunday morning, killing at least 11 people, including an American soldier.

briefly escaping by car after British intelligence helped bribe two of the captors. Bigley was recaptured and the two captors who helped him were killed, the newspaper said. Elsewhere, the U.S. command said a Marine was killed Saturday by hostile fire in Anbar province but gave no further details.

Insurgents ambushed a Marine convoy Sunday near the western town of Hit. U.S. officials said, Marines killed three of their attackers and wounded five but suffered no casualties.

In Baghdad, an Iraqi intelligence officer was killed Sunday morning in a drive-by shooting as he left home for work, according to Col. Adnan Abdul-Rahman of the Interior Ministry.

South of the capital, the U.S. command said 15 more insurgents were rounded up Saturday in a joint American-Iraqi operation to suppress resistance in an area notorious for ambushes and kidnappings. At least 78 people have been apprehended since the push began last week, the military said Sunday.



JULIANA GITTLER/Stars and Stripes

First Lt. Thomas Hernandez, center front, holding notebook, talks to a local Iraqi farmer about flooding on his land near Ash-Shumali, Babil province, Iraq. In the background are other members of the 1st Battalion, 185th Armor Regiment's civil-military operations team: Sgt. Brian Freeman, left, and Capt. Rafael Obieta, background center.

Guardsmen win over Iraqis with reconstruction tasks

Plan keeps the peace while rebuilding area south of Baghdad

BY JULIANA GITTLER

Stars and Stripes

CONVOY SUPPORT CENTER
SCANIA, Iraq — A group of California National Guard soldiers has assumed an unfamiliar job in southern Iraq: building bridges, buildings and culverts while helping to maintain security in a small sliver of the war-torn nation.

Members of the 1st Battalion 185th Armor Regiment arrived in Iraq and assumed security operations in an area 150 miles south of Baghdad. As part of their security plan, they are working on civil-military operations that help locals stay peaceful by rebuilding their communities.

"These folks are pretty coalition friendly, which lets us get our projects off the ground quickly," said team leader Capt. Scott R. Moreland. "That's why it's remained peaceful. We really aggressively pursued civil-military operations as a command-sponsored operation."

The concept is an Army standard. But the soldiers making it happen are unconventional. They normally work with tanks and infantry. It's their backgrounds that made the difference.

"The beauty is we came in with some background," said Sgt. Brian Freeman, an electrical engineer, who previously did project

management in the Air Force. "The only thing that changed for me is the body armor and the scale of the projects."

Also on the team is 1st Lt. Thomas Hernandez, who was in a civil affairs unit as an enlisted soldier, and Capt. Rafael Obieta, a civilian defense contractor for the Air Force.

Using their experience, they built a civil affairs program from scratch.

"We had to kind of create it ourselves," Moreland said. They started smaller, less expensive projects that would be easier to complete. They rebuilt battered footbridges over canals that saved locals from walking miles out of their way. Cement water culverts helped farmers with irrigation.

"Our credibility skyrocketed when we initiated our first project in May," said Lt. Col. James B. Sayers, the battalion commander. "A lot of grandiose projects are great. But we stick to the basics."

Doing small jobs, the Guard members have completed more than most other battalion-size civil-military operations.

The team uses local engineers to plan projects and hires local contractors to build them. They work closely with local leaders to prioritize.

"The bottom line is we're getting the Iraqis involved," Obieta said.

The team of about a dozen people — some doing projects while others conduct security and information gathering — has completed 31 projects and is working on 11 more.

Their success is demonstrated by stability in the region, the Guard members say. Local residents, pleased with their improved communities, chased away insurgents over the summer and provide intelligence, Sayers said. There have been a few attacks in the area for months.

"I think our CMO program is a major part of our force protection," Sayers said.

The group's success is filtering to other units with a similar mission. A project database created by Freeman and the team's operating procedures are circulating in other areas where battalions hope to re-create the results.

The team members, despite doing jobs the Army didn't train them for, are rewarded by the results.

"I can go home now and tell my son, here are the good things we did for the people of Iraq," Moreland said. "It's like our own little Peace Corps with guns."

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U.S. moving forward on Iraqi schools renovations

BY WARD SANDERSON

Stars and Stripes

BAGHDAD — American officials say the U.S. Project and Contracting Office is completing renovations on about 200 schools, and it soon plans to begin work on 1,000 more.

They also say the work is being done without swarms of subcontractors — who the Iraqi government claims have contributed to shoddy work in the past.

And it's all working with a minimum investment in security, thanks to low-profile operations.

So far, work has focused on the southern part of the country, but will soon move north. The entire project will cost \$79 million, or about \$35,000 to \$65,000 per school.

A senior U.S. official, speaking on condition of anonymity, said

that Iraq's Ministry of Education and local headmasters decide what the schools need, and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers signs off on the quality of the completed work before contractors are paid. Iraqis are doing the on-site work so, as not to attract attention, saving money on security costs.

Still, these Iraqis won't be hiring other Iraqi companies, who in turn hire yet others.

"The one thing we focused on is making sure there were not a lot of layers of subcontractors," the U.S. official said during a background briefing Sunday.

Large companies and organizations remain involved at the top level. Work is being managed by groups including KBR, an affiliate of Halliburton, the corporation formerly headed by Vice President Dick Cheney; Washing-

ton Group International; U.S. Agency for International Development; and Save the Children.

The oversight and subsequent desire to minimize subcontract-

The entire project will cost \$79 million, or about \$35,000 to \$65,000 per school.

ton follows complaints by Iraq's Ministry of Education and previous renovations by both nongovernmental organizations and large firms, in particular the Bechtel Corp.

A second official, a U.S. consultant involved in the renovations, said some charities abandoned that work once Iraq became more dan-

gerous in March. Iraq's criticism of Bechtel has been more generally aimed at the quality of work done.

Bechtel has released a statement defending its work in Iraq.

"A number of inaccurate and misleading statements have been made recently regarding Bechtel's work under the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID) in Iraq, suggesting that Bechtel has won sweet heart deals, overcharged the federal government, and failed to employ Iraqis," its release read.

These charges simply are not true. Bechtel stands proud of the contribution the men and women on the project are making to this critical postwar effort.

U.S. officials said Sunday that Bechtel did "a lot" of good work,

but acknowledged that the Iraqi government had complained.

In addition to the U.S. Project and Contracting Office efforts, charities continue to help build the schools — so much so, in fact, that the office has found 600 of the 1,200 schools it originally planned to renovate had already been improved. The Americans are then using their resources to find funding for additional schools to work on.

U.S. officials said they are happy for the help, but would like to see a central database so that they know who is doing what work.

"It's a tough one," the consultant said, "because there's no central point of control — some NGOs just don't want to deal with the U.S. government."

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Vilseck soldier who tried to avoid Iraq duty gets jail time

BY STEVE LIEWER

Stars and Stripes

A Vilseck-based soldier accused of faking mental illness to avoid serving in Iraq was sentenced Thursday to 11 months in prison, according to the 1st Infantry Division's staff judge advocate.

Spc. Jason Lux, 24, of the 2nd Battalion, 2nd Infantry Regiment, pleaded guilty to

two counts of missing a troop movement. As part of a plea agreement, military prosecutors dropped a charge of malingering, said Capt. Jonathan Larcomb, the division's senior trial counsel.

Larcomb said Lux had been sent home to Germany in mid-March, six weeks after the 2-2 Infantry deployed to Iraq, to undergo an emergency appendectomy. After his convalescent leave ended, he was allowed to stay

three extra weeks to see the birth of his child.

Then Lux told his commanders he was depressed and suicidal and unable to return to Iraq. Three psychiatrists, Larcomb said, pronounced Lux fit to deploy, and his command scheduled him to fly back in June.

The first time he went to his psychiatrist, and the second time he refused to go — although, Larcomb said, he had been offered

a noncombat job. His attorney, Capt. Rob Stelle, said in court Lux had told his command he feared he might hurt himself or someone else if he deployed.

Besides the jail time, the judge, Lt. Col. Robin Hall, ordered Lux to forfeit all pay during his jail term, reduced him to the lowest enlisted rank and handed him a bad-conduct discharge.

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U.S. trainers bring skills to Iraqi forces

Unit to take lead role in preparing recruits

By BEN DOBBIN

The Associated Press

WALWORTH, N.Y. — Capt. Victor Santiago is a part-time soldier in a noncombat unit assigned to one of the highest-priority tasks in Iraq — training the new Iraqi army so that U.S. forces can someday go home.

Santiago, 31, an Army reservist who works for Xerox Corp., won't be landing on the front lines in two weeks. But frequent travel between his barracks and six far-flung training sites will leave him exposed, like any American in uniform, to snipers, mortars or suicide bombings.

When his 7-year-old daughter, Rebecca, came in from school and asked "What if Daddy dies?" Santiago did his best to assuage her without dispelling the hazards of war.

She still cries at bedtime, sleeps fitfully and insists on wearing a T-shirt proclaiming herself as Daddy's Girl. "It's hard to get it off her to wash it," said Santiago's wife, Leshia, a nurse who spent six years in the Army Reserve in the 1990s.

The couple's other child, Matthew, 8, keeps his emotions largely hidden. The other day, though, his mother discovered a box of letters he'd already scrawled to his soon-to-be-absent father.

"Dear Capt. Santiago, I love you, I miss you, I'm so proud of you," one begins.

Santiago is shipping out with the 98th Division on its first overseas deployment as a division since World War II. About 725 reservists from the 3,200-strong 98th, which encompasses New York, New Jersey and New England, will assume a lead role as the U.S. military plays a pivotal course of training and equipping more than 250,000 members of Iraq's security forces.

Lt. Col. Christopher Semler, 44, a father of five who helps run a center for the disabled in Rochester, will direct training and



Capt. Victor Santiago poses with his wife, Leshia, and their children, Rebecca, 7, left, and Matthew, 8, right, in front of their Walworth, N.Y., home on Wednesday. Santiago is one of about 725 reservists from the 98th Division who are heading to Iraq to assume a pivotal role in training Iraqi forces.

education for the so-called Multinational Security and Transition Coalition based in Baghdad.

"We are the U.S. exit strategy," Semler said during one of his final stops at 98th Division headquarters in Irondequoit, a Rochester suburb.

"Once the Iraqi army and police are developed, the United States should be able to pull out," Semler said. "Who knows how long that will take? There may be some advancement presence for years on end, but this is to stand up their army and police so they can be a sovereign nation."

The Pentagon says there are nearly 5,000 trained Iraqi soldiers and 39,000 Iraqi National Guard members, and plans are under way to equip and train an additional

120,000 soldiers, police and border guards.

Defying an escalating barrage of insurgent attacks, Iraqis drawn by high salaries and national pride have lined up by the hundreds at recruiting stations seeking jobs with the police and the military.

The 98th, which normally trains reserve and active-duty soldiers in the United States, will advise and assist in reshaping all three divisions of the Iraqi army via six training installations "in varying stages of construction" in northern Iraq, Semler said.

Key elements will be inculcating a command-and-control model that divides the Iraqi army into squads and platoons governed by noncommissioned officers closest

to the troops, and inspiring American-style "initiative and responsibility" among the ranks, Semler said.

Under Saddam Hussein's highly centralized regime, decision-making below the top tier was stifled by fear — "you make a mistake, you and your family may be a goner," Semler said — whereas "a soldier is going to be more motivated if he has a sense of control."

While the Army Reserve filled in vacant slots in the mission to train the Afghan army, the 98th has been given a precedent-setting role in Iraq, filling 27 of 39 training teams.

"I don't think the quality of the people in any way, shape or form goes down," Semler said. "Most of the guys have been deployed before or have years in active duty."

Yet the mission is longer and more dangerous than many reservists are used to. For a year or more, even while operating in more secure rear areas, they won't be far from the fighting.

Semler, whose two elder children in college wondered why he didn't just retire, has worked hardest trying to comfort his 9-year-old daughter, Zoe.

"Going to a place where I might get hurt shook her up," he said. "We just spend a lot of time together. When I get back, we'll go to Disneyland. We focus on the future. That helps."

As the leaves turn, Santiago cuts a solitary figure jogging every other day along undulating country roads in Walworth, a village 20 miles from Rochester. On weekends, his family is often found at church or rambling on a tree-topped ridge across from their modest, hillside home.

"I know the value of what I have now, how precious it is," he said.

"By the same token, I teach my daughter that we live our life for others, and that's why I wear this uniform. I envision a very distraught country that is rebuilding itself and, personally, I can relate with individuals who have to scrounge for anything. I hope we make it better, as soon as possible, for those people."

Alies urged to pay donations to Iraq

By ERIC TALMADGE

The Associated Press

TOKYO — Hoping to keep much-needed cash flowing into war-ravaged Iraq, Japan will hold a 50-nation Iraqi reconstruction donors' conference this week that may focus less on getting new pledges than on getting countries to honor their earlier promises.

The two-day conference, starting Wednesday, is a follow-up to a high-profile meeting in Madrid last year in which 37 countries and international lending institutions pledged billions of dollars in grants and loans.

Only about \$1 billion of the pledged amount has been deposited in World Bank and U.N. funds for Iraq.

Several members of Iraq's Cabinet, including Mahdi al-Hafidh, minister of planning and development, are expected to attend the Tokyo conference to explain their efforts and try to sway participants to dig deep.

A delegation has not been officially announced due to security concerns.

Last month, al-Hafidh criticized donor countries for not fulfilling their financial commitments, for focusing too much money on security and for not allowing Iraqis to benefit from contracts.

"Almost 65 percent of the money allocated to most projects is spent on providing security and protection to the projects and their personnel," he said during a U.N.-organized three-day symposium.

Though the situation in Iraq remains unstable, Japanese officials say they hope potential new donors may come forward now that Iraq has an internationally recognized government. An interim government took over in July, and elections are scheduled for January.

Japan, which has pledged \$5 billion through 2007 for humanitarian assistance and rebuilding, is the second-highest contributor after the United States, with its pledge of \$18.4 billion — of which about \$6 billion has been set aside for reconstruction.

Patrolling on the Euphrates



ZACHARY R. FRANK/Courtesy of the U.S. Marine Corps

A Marine manning a turret looks for anything suspicious along the shores of the Euphrates River in Bab al-Province, Iraq. Marines, from Small Crafts Battalion, Battalion Landing Team 1/2, watch the shores as they patrol in watercrafts traveling to checkpoints along the Euphrates. The 24th Marine Expeditionary Unit is conducting security and stability operations in the province.

Allawi uses new tactic for peace

Guns-and-diplomacy policy bears Sadr City deal; is Fallujah next?

BY HAMZA HENDAWI
The Associated Press

BAGHDAD — Blending diplomacy with American firepower, Iraqi interim Prime Minister Ayad Allawi is moving closer to bringing rebel areas under government control before national elections in January.

In just over a week, joint U.S.-Iraqi forces smashed militants in Samarra, forced a truce with Shiite gunmen in Baghdad and pursued insurgents south of the capital.

Fallujah, the highest headache of all, appears next in line for a political solution, which — if all goes according to plan — would bring the rebellious city west of Baghdad under government control.

In dealing with Fallujah and the Shiite gunmen in the Baghdad district of Sadr City, Allawi used American military might to pressure his foes while still keeping open lines of communication with insurgents.

For weeks, U.S. warplanes, tanks and helicopter gunships went into action almost daily against Shiite militiamen loyal to radical cleric Muqtada al-Sadr in Baghdad and against Fallujah militants led by Jordanian extremist Abu Musab al-Zarqawi.

In both Sadr City and Fallujah, the airstrikes and the shelling have taken a heavy toll on insurgents as well as civilians, leaving many residents grumbling that the militants should stand down.

Al-Sadr aides announced Saturday that militiamen will begin surrendering heavy and medium weapons next week in a first step toward halting weeks of fighting in Sadr City.

Meanwhile, defense ministry officials and the chief negotiator from Fallujah, Sheikh Khaleel al-Jumaili, said a deal could be struck soon to bring the embattled city under government control.

"The talks have reached their final stages and a truce may be imminent," a well-placed De-

fense Ministry source said on condition of anonymity.

Another ministry official, who also requested anonymity, said the deal would include an end to U.S. airstrikes against the city.

In return, militants would hand over medium and heavy weapons to Iraqi authorities and allow government forces to take control of Fallujah.

American troops, who are deployed outside Fallujah, would not be allowed to patrol the city "under any circumstances," al-Jumaili said.

Returning Fallujah to government control without bloodshed would be a major victory for Allawi. It would also enable the Bush administration to avoid another major battle for control of Fallujah.

In April, U.S. Marines attacked the city but suspended the operation three weeks later because of criticism from foreign governments and America's Iraqi allies. The Marines turned the city over to the Fallujah Brigade, who soon kept control of the city but suspended the operation three weeks later because of criticism from foreign governments and America's Iraqi allies. The Marines turned the city over to the Fallujah Brigade, who soon kept control of the city but suspended the operation three weeks later because of criticism from foreign governments and America's Iraqi allies.

According to officials from both sides, the main issue standing in the way of a final agreement is the makeup of the Iraqi National Guard unit that would be sent to the city. The Fallujah delegation, which met with the government Saturday, insists that the unit be made up exclusively of city residents.

However, the government, mindful of the failure of the Fallujah Brigade, wants the unit to include soldiers from all over Iraq. Al-Jumaili said one possible compromise might be to transfer Fallujah residents serving in the National Guard elsewhere in Iraq back to their home city.

"That will assure the government that they will not be attacked," he said.

Al-Jumaili said the issue of foreign fighters in Fallujah has not been raised so far in the negotiations. The United States insisted in April that foreign fighters must leave.



Last week, Iraqi interim Prime Minister Ayad Allawi told the media that the government has "new plans" to crush the deadly insurgency and restore security in Iraq.

Long trek for donated medical supplies



AMEE RUSCH/Courtesy of the U.S. Army

A combat logistics patrol lines up to deliver medical supplies to the beleaguered Samarra Hospital earlier this month. Company C of the 299th Forward Support Battalion, part of the 1st Infantry Division's Task Force 1-26, and the 226th Medical Logistics Battalion pooled their resources to provide the supplies to help care for Iraqi civilians hurt in the recent fighting between U.S. forces and insurgents in the city. Supplies included an array of bandages, needles and catheters for fluid replacement and emergency airway kits, plus basic antibiotics, low-level medications and pediatric emergency equipment. Another package is being prepared for later delivery.

Malaysian prime minister denies oil-for-food kickback from Saddam

The Associated Press

KUALA LUMPUR, Malaysia — Malaysian Prime Minister Abdullah Ahmad Badawi on Sunday denied U.S. allegations that he received kickbacks from an alleged scam by former Iraqi dictator Saddam Hussein to undermine a U.N. oil-for-food program.

In a report issued Wednesday, Charles Duelfer, head of the U.S. Iraq Survey Group, said Saddam issued secret vouchers for the purchase of oil, which could then be resold at a profit.

"I just want to find out how come my name is there," Abdullah told reporters.

The Iraq Survey Group is a U.S. government body assigned to hunt for weapons of mass destruction in Iraq.

The report said former French Interior Minister Charles Pasqua, Indonesian President Megawati

Charles Duelfer's report said Saddam Hussein issued secret vouchers for the purchase of oil, which could then be resold at a profit.

Sukarnoputri and radical Russian political figure Vladimir Zhirinovskiy had received the vouchers.

It also listed a "Mr. Abdullah Badawi" as one of the recipients, but didn't explicitly identify him as the Malaysian leader, and gave no further details.

Malaysian Foreign Minister Syed Hamid Albar vowed to investigate the matter, voicing concerns there might be "people who want to smear the good name of this nation's leadership."

Abdullah, who succeeded longtime Prime Minister Mahatir Mohamad in October, said he was surprised to be implicated in the report.

He said he had supported several Malaysian businessmen's bids to participate in the U.N. oil-for-food program — but he made it clear he was not personally involved.

"I said that I have also supported Malaysian companies that wanted to participate in the oil-for-food program for Iraq," Abdullah said. "That is a very legitimate business organized by the United Nations together in collaboration with the Iraqi government."

The oil-for-food program was designed to allow limited oil sales to pay for humanitarian goods, but critics and U.S. congressional investigators have long alleged that U.N. administration of the program was rife with corruption.

Czech Republic hopes to extend mission in Iraq

The Associated Press

PRAGUE, Czech Republic — The Czech government wants to extend the mandate of the 100-strong contingent of Czech military police in Iraq, an official said Sunday.

Defense Minister Karel Khuenl said in a live television debate his government wants the contingent's mandate, which expires Dec. 31, extended by two months.

The Czech military police members are training Iraqi officers

near the town of Basra. Extension of their mandate, however, requires parliamentary approval, which is uncertain.

Khuenl also did not rule out training Iraqi officers on Czech territory after the contingent's mandate expires, and suggested the Czech government could also offer material assistance to the Iraqi military.

"We could have a look at what we have and not need here and send it over to Iraq," he said. "The message I hear is clear:

we have enough people, what we need is training and equipment," he added.

Speaking live from Baghdad, Iraqi Minister of Culture Muefid al-Jazairi praised the Czech government's offer, but said his country may ask for more aid from the Czech Republic after the elections scheduled for January.

"There are many fields where the Czech Republic can help, such as restoration of our damaged historic monuments," al-Jazairi said.

IN THE WORLD

Panel to review Afghan election

BY DANIEL COONEY

The Associated Press

KABUL, Afghanistan — An independent commission will investigate claims by all 15 challengers to interim leader Hamid Karzai that Afghanistan's first direct presidential election was marred by incompetence and fraud, a top official said Sunday.

The move to head off the attack on the vote's legitimacy came as workers began the long process of collecting ballots from Saturday's historic election, in which Karzai was a heavy favorite.

A day after the challengers announced they would boycott the election's outcome, two backed off, saying they wanted a commission to rule on whether the voting was fair and indicating they would accept its decision.

A few hours later, their demands appeared to have been met.

"There is going to be an independent commission made to investigate it," said electoral director Farooq Wardak. "There could be mistakes; we are just human beings. My colleagues might have made a mistake."

There was no immediate reaction from the challengers, but U.S. Ambassador Zalmay Khalilzad and other officials were re-

portedly meeting behind closed doors with many of the candidates.

What was supposed to be a historic day in this war-ravaged nation turned sour hours after voting started when the 15 accused the government and the United Nations of fraud and incompetence over faulty ink used to mark people's thumbs to prevent repeat voting.

The challengers' complaints drew criticism from international electoral observers.

The Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe said Sunday the demand to nullify the poll was unjustified. The U.S. International Republican Institute called the ballot "a triumph" and accused the challengers of trying to make up excuses for why they were likely to lose.

On Sunday, ethnic Hazara candidate Mohammed Mohaqaeq said an electoral commission should be formed to examine the vote and later distanced himself from the challengers' threat to boycott the results.

"To boycott and to criticize are two different things. Their position is to be boycotted. My position is to criticize," he told reporters.

The only woman in the election, Massouda Jala, also indicated she might accept a commission's finding.



Afghan election officials carry presidential election ballot boxes to a warehouse Sunday on an Afghan military base in Kabul, Afghanistan. An independent commission will investigate claims made by challengers to interim leader Hamid Karzai that Afghanistan's first direct presidential election was marred by incompetence and fraud.

Mosque bombed

LAHORE, Pakistan — A bombing at a Shiite mosque in the eastern city of Lahore on Sunday killed at least four people and injured others, officials said.

A witness said a man carrying a briefcase tried to enter the Husainia Hall mosque in the ancient walled part of the city during evening prayers but was blocked by security guards. He then detonated a bomb in the briefcase.

The bomb went off at the mosque at 5:40 p.m. after prayers, said Raja Basharat Illahi, the province's law minister. Dozens of people were inside the mosque when the blast went off, police said.

Bosnian Serb arrested

AMSTERDAM, Netherlands — The U.N. war crimes tribunal on Sunday took custody of a former senior Bosnian Serb commander accused of genocide for the 1995 mass killing of Muslims in the U.N.-protected zone of Srebrenica.

Ljubisa Beara, who was a colonel and the security chief for the Bosnian Serb army's main staff, is one of the most senior officers to fall into the court's hands in recent years.

He was delivered to the U.N. detention unit near The Hague after midnight, following his arrest Saturday in Serbia, tribunal officials said.

In Belgrade, the government of Serbia-Montenegro said Beara surrendered "to protect the interests of the state and those of his family." Beara, 65, one of seven fugitives sought for the massacre of some 8,000 Muslim men and boys at Srebrenica, faces six counts of genocide, complicity in genocide, murder, persecutions and forced transfers. He could be sentenced to life in prison if convicted on any charge.

Labor leader released

ABUJA, Nigeria — Security forces released the head of Nigeria's main labor organization on Sunday after a brief detention, but a nationwide strike will go ahead as planned, a spokesman for the labor group said.

Adams Oshiomhole, president of the Nigeria Labor Congress representing 29 unions, was stopped at Abuja's international airport Saturday as he was waiting for a flight to a Nigerian city, the union group said.

Information Minister Chukwueke Chikelu said Oshiomhole was released after being held briefly.

"My understanding was that he had some misunderstanding with some low-level security officials, and it has been resolved," Chikelu said.

Owei Lakemfa, a spokesman for the labor congress, confirmed the release. The Nigeria Labor Congress is planning to strike Monday to protest rising fuel prices in Africa's largest crude oil producer.

The strike will go ahead, Lakemfa said.

A general strike in Nigeria last year shut down businesses in Lagos and several other cities for eight days, provoking a government crackdown in which police killed at least 11 protesters.

From The Associated Press

Egypt: Bedouin may have sold explosives used in bombing

The Associated Press

TABA, Egypt — A Bedouin tribesman has confessed to selling explosives that might have been used in three car bombings targeting Israeli tourists, and investigators were looking into Palestinian militant involvement, Egyptian security officials said Sunday.

The tribesman said the buyers, whom he couldn't identify, had told him the explosives would be used in the Palestinian territories, an Egyptian investigator told The Associated Press.

"The explosives were sold on the assumption that they were going to the Palestinians," the official said, speaking on condition of anonymity.

Three car bombs, each packed with 440 pounds of explosives, exploded Thursday night, one at the Taba Hilton just south of the Egypt-Israel border and two at a town of beach bungalows, Ras Shitan, 35 miles south on the Red Sea.

Israeli rescue crews finished their work at the shattered Hilton and went home Sunday evening, saying prayers for the dead as

Egyptian civil defense officers cleared the rubble with axes and sledgehammers under generator-powered floodlights.

Egypt put the death toll at 34. Israeli Maj. Gen. Yair Naveh said at the Taba border crossing that 32 bodies had been found, plus 14 body parts that may include the remains of others.

The dead included, Egyptians, Israelis, a Russian woman and others from the former Soviet Union and eastern Europe, he said.

Naveh also said that in addition

to the Isuzu pickup truck that exploded at the hotel, a suicide bomber inside detonated another bomb. "To our relief, the bomber who entered the hotel did not enter the hotel restaurants, something which would have brought down at least half the hotel," he said.

Egyptian security officials said some of dozens of Bedouins detained for questioning after the car bombings in Taba and the resort area of Ras Shitan to the south have been cooperating with authorities and have provided valuable information about the explosives.

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A clearer picture of militants

Saudis portray rebels as on the run, declining in quality, unknowledgeable

BY DONNA ABU-NAJR

The Associated Press

RIYADH, Saudi Arabia — They rent cars and houses using stolen IDs. They disguise themselves as women or as big young men.

The money they raise for Iraqi prisoners in U.S. jails funds terror operations.

This, Saudi officials say, is the kind of information they're getting from scores of Saudi militants arrested in an aggressive government campaign. Two suspects have appeared on television to talk about life underground, telling of wounded comrades who died from lack of medical care, some supposedly devoted activists who know little of Islam and others who consider all Saudis in uniform to be infidels.

Such information has enabled the kingdom to strike at the root of al-Qaida's Saudi infrastructure, kill or capture several of its leaders, and publicly portray it in a humiliating light.

But no one is willing to declare the network dead or paralyzed, and foreigners know the successes do not mean they should let their guard down.

"It's not in our security interest to assume they cannot carry out a large operation," said Brig. Gen. Mansour al-Turki, the Interior Ministry spokesman. "If we assume they can't, it would have an adverse effect on our alertness and level of preparedness to confront them."

In confessions on the government's Channel 1 television, suspects Khaled al-Farraj and Abdul Rahman al-Rashoud said most



A Saudi man watches from afar the shootout between police and terrorists outside the Oasis compound in Khobar, Saudi Arabia, on May 30. Brig. Gen. Mansour al-Turki, the Saudi Interior Ministry spokesman, says the picture of operations in the kingdom is clearer but "it's not in our security interest to assume they cannot carry out a large operation."

the operatives in Saudi Arabia are ignorant, especially in religious matters. They said they raise funds by telling donors the money will go toward helping the religious poor and Iraqis in U.S. detention.

Al-Farraj was arrested in January after a raid on his Riyadh house that left six security agents dead. Al-Rashoud is believed to be related to Abdullah Mohammed Rashid al-Rashoud, no. 24 on the Saudi wanted list. It isn't clear when he was arrested.

"Young ones were recruited because they do not have sufficient knowledge of the religion or a wise mind that can tell right from

wrong," al-Rashoud said on the program. Al-Farraj said cell leaders intimidated the recruits by telling them there was no way out of the group.

Nawaf Obaid, head of the Saudi National Security Assessment Project, a nongovernment research institute, said the quality of recruits is down.

While the first tier mostly trained in camps in Afghanistan and could have met bin Laden in person, the new ones don't have the know-how to structure a cell, find a safe house or rig a car with explosives, Obaid, who is close to the government, said.

The authorities have "put them on the run," said Obaid.

Pakistani officials still negotiating to free 2 Chinese

BY MATTHEW PENNINGTON

The Associated Press

ISLAMABAD, Pakistan — Pakistan's interior minister said negotiators were trying Sunday to release two Chinese engineers abducted in a tense border region, hours after the pair had been reported released.

The engineers, along with a Pakistani security guard and a driver, were ambushed Saturday morning as they traveled to the construction site of a dam in South Waziristan — a remote tribal region where al-Qaida-linked militants are active.

On Sunday, police and a Chinese Embassy official said that after negotiations, the engineers were safe as they had been handed over by the kidnappers to tribal elders, and were expected to be freed soon.

But a senior intelligence official based in Islamabad said on condition of anonymity the Chinese were being held by al-Qaida-linked militants who were threatening to kill them unless authorities released militants held by Pakistani security forces.

"They are blackmailing the

government to get their people released, including some foreigners," he said.

Interior Minister Aftab Ahmed Khan Sherpao claimed the two Chinese were under the protection of a local tribe. He said a tribal council was negotiating with their kidnappers over demands for setting them free.

"The jirga (council) we have sent there are holding talks with them. Whatever their demands are will come forward later and then we will take this process ahead peacefully," he said. "But I am satisfied that they are safe."

He said two of the kidnappers were local tribesmen and two were foreigners, although their nationality was unclear.

Pakistan has launched a series of military operations this year to flush out militants from Waziristan, including Central Asians, Arabs and Afghans, killing scores of fighters and capturing others.

The two engineers are among between 70 and 80 Chinese working for a Chinese state construction company on the Gomal Zam dam, a \$203 million project to generate electricity and store water. The dam lies about 210 miles west of Islamabad.

African monitors send a message in Darfur: The world is watching

BY ELLEN KNICKMEYER

The Associated Press

MISTIRIA, Sudan — Patrolling a war zone the size of Texas with just 12 two-man crews, Maj. Panduleni Martin's mission this day takes him to Mistiria, the stronghold of Darfur's feared Arab militia, for banter with a suspected Janjaweed field commander.

Through small talk with government forces and their rebel rivals, and keeping tabs on more than 1 million war-displaced civilians, Martin and the rest of the African Union monitoring crew hope to send all sides in Darfur a message: The world is watching.

To an extent, it's working. The military monitors assembled in west Sudan from armed forces across Africa say.

"They know we are foreign eyes when we go there," Cmdr. Seth Appiah-Mensah, an African Union officer from Ghana, says of a Janjaweed base in Mistiria. "And they don't like foreign eyes," he adds, tapping his own.

Darfur's conflict is blamed for more than 50,000 deaths and has driven 1.4 million mostly

non-Arab civilians from their homes in the past 20 months. The bloodletting was allegedly carried out by government-backed militiamen known as the Janjaweed, and conflict-related disease that followed killed many.

The unarmed African Union military observers, protected by roughly 300 African Union troops, monitor a regularly violated April cease-fire.

The African Union force is to grow to 3,500 in coming weeks, gaining increased U.S. funding and logistical support from private military contractors PAE Group and Dyncorp. Sudan's government reluctantly agreed to the bolstered force but has resisted international prodding to shift AU duties from monitoring to peacekeeping.

Large-scale attacks on civilians have eased in recent weeks under international scrutiny. Some of the Arab tribal militia fighters known as Janjaweed — a traditionally insulting term they do not use for themselves — have pulled back to bases like the one in Mistiria, in north Darfur.

Equipment shortages have



African Union cease-fire monitors Maj. Panduleni Martin from Zambia, left, and Lt. Col. Abu Asala El Majzoub from the Sudanese government, center, speak to Bugel Abdullah Zachariah, right, who is from an Arab-African tribe, last week in North Darfur, Sudan. African Union monitors are patrolling Darfur, where ethnic conflicts are blamed for more than 50,000 deaths and for driving 1.4 million from their homes.

plagued the AU mission, blocking most of the 400-plus monitors and protection troops from even starting their work.

While the United Nations prods Europe and the United States for promised support, AU monitors complain of shortages even of the arm bands that show them to be AU observers.

Officially, the AU mission has six African and six European military members — one adviser each for each of the 12 AU teams.

Americans are especially resentful among the Sudanese military and allied militia, the AU officers say — the United States has led in terming Darfur's conflict genocide and pushing for sanctions.

With the upcoming strengthening of the AU force to 3,500, the African officers will be able to place permanent teams in each hot spot, Maj. Johan Odenaal of South Africa says.

But absent a change in mandate to peacekeeping from monitoring, their role will limit them to just that: watching.

IN THE STATES

Congress works to defer elections

Senate debates corporate tax bill, approves defense bill in rare weekend session

By ALAN FRAM

The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Senators turned their attention Sunday to a wide-ranging \$136 billion corporate tax bill as lawmakers whittle down their workload before leaving town for the elections.

In a rare weekend session, the Senate planned to vote on ending procedural roadblocks opponents have used to stall the tax legislation, which contains breaks for everything from large corporations to importers of Chinese ceiling fans. Supporters of the measure were predicting victory, and final passage was possible later in the day.

"It is unusual to be here on a Sunday, but in order to complete the nation's business we are doing just that," Senate Majority Leader Bill Frist said after the Senate was gavelled to order.

The House adjourned Saturday for the campaigns after approving a trio of bills. They were a \$14.5 billion hurricane and farm

disaster package; a \$33 billion bill financing the Department of Homeland Security; and legislation shaping \$447 billion in Pentagon programs for the new budget year.

The Senate approved the defense bill but didn't get to the hurricane or Homeland Security measures.

"FEMA runs out of money tonight," said Sen. Ted Stevens, R-Alaska, trying to prod the Senate into action by arguing that the Federal Emergency Management Agency needed cash to continue helping hurricane victims.

But his pleas had little effect. Senators including Tom Harkin, D-Iowa, and Mary Landrieu,

D-La., used lengthy speeches to complain about items missing from the tax bill. Those included Food and Drug Administration regulation of tobacco, tax breaks for reservists called to active duty and language blocking new Bush administration overtime regulations.

Senate Majority Leader Bill Frist, R-Tenn., planned votes for Monday on ending the delays that have slowed the disaster and Homeland Security bills. He said those votes were needed "because of the obstruction that has played out over the last two days from the other side of the aisle."

The House approved the tax legislation Thursday by 280-141.

The bill would provide \$76.5 billion in tax relief for the country's beleaguered manufacturing sector and other producers including construction companies, architects, engineering firms, film and music companies, and oil and gas concerns.

The bill would also permit a \$5 billion annual tax break provided

to American exporters that was ruled illegal by the World Trade Organization. Ending the tax break is needed to lift retaliatory tariffs that have been imposed on U.S. exports to Europe that now stand at 12 percent and are rising by 1 percentage point a month.

On Saturday, the House by 374-0 approved the bill helping hurricane victims and farmers suffering from drought, flood and other emergencies. It included \$11.6 billion for Florida and other storm-struck states and \$2.9 billion for farmers hit by drought and other natural disasters. Some \$6.5 billion was for FEMA and the aid it provides individuals and state and local governments. The measure was attached to a \$10 billion military construction bill.

Congress sent Bush a bill shaping \$477 billion in programs for the Pentagon for the new budget year. The measure would let the Air Force buy 100 Boeing 767s for use as midair refueling tankers, but would block a proposal to lease the aircraft.

Task force reviews sex harassment at academies

The Associated Press

ANNAPOLIS, Md. — A government task force is reviewing how the Army and Navy military academies handle sexual harassment and harassment reports in the wake of findings that administrators at the Air Force Academy ignored such reports.

The combined military and civilian committee interviewed students and faculty at the Naval Academy in Annapolis and will also review the U.S. Military Academy at West Point, The Washington Post reported on Saturday's editions.

"There is still some element of sexual harassment and sexual violence at the military academies," Navy Vice Adm. Gerald Howing, who heads the committee, told the paper. "And our job is to drive that number down to zero, because our nation deserves it."

"We're going to do everything we can to do that."

The Department of Defense recently began a study of sexual assaults among active-duty service members, the Guard and the Reserve and is considering harsher punishment for sex crimes under review.

Earlier this month, the Air Force released a report that said sexual assaults at Air Force bases have become more widespread than officials first believed.

"Sexual harassment and sexual violence are an anathema to honorable service to our nation," Defense Secretary Donald Rumsfeld said in a statement. "We must ensure that the environment within the department... is not conducive to sexual misconduct."

Hoewing's committee has been tasked with issuing a report to Congress within a year. He said the committee will focus on investigating the overall culture of the academies, gauging attitudes toward sexual harassment and finding ways to prevent future problems.

Hoewing said the committee will also review past incidents, including the case of a Navy midshipman charged last year with raping a 19-year-old female schoolmate. The charges were dropped but the student charged was expelled.

Matthew drenches Louisiana

NEW ORLEANS — Tropical Storm Matthew, the 13th named storm of the 2004 hurricane season, weakened Sunday after moving into southern Louisiana, causing scattered flooding as heavy rain drenched the area.

Elsewhere, the 14th-named storm, a "subtropical" system named Nicole, blew gusty wind around Bermuda.

A tropical storm warning along the Gulf of

Mexico from the Alabama-Florida state line westward to Intracoastal City, Louisiana, was discontinued when the storm weakened, the National Hurricane Center said in Miami.

Stepped rain flooded streets and homes in southeastern Louisiana. No injuries were reported.


A canal levee was breached in Terrebonne Parish, flooding about a dozen homes, said Mart Black, spokesman for the parish's emergency operations center. "We've got some

trees across roads, but things are relatively calm right now," he said.

Meanwhile, Nicole was centered about 115 miles west of Bermuda, moving north-northwest at 14 mph. It did not meet the strict definition of a tropical storm but was classified a subtropical storm with outlying bands of 45 mph winds.

Spots in Massachusetts, Maine, New Brunswick and Nova Scotia could feel Nicole's outer effects by the middle of the week.

From The Associated Press



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2056 A Child's Hope Fund	2080 Christian Military Fellowship
2059 ACN's Children's Tuition Fund	2081 Christian Relief Fund
2041 Advocates International	2081 Christian Relief Services
2046 African American Self-Help Foundation	2082 Compassion International Incorporated
2064 Aid to Children, Youth and Families	2081 Family Research Council
2007 AIDS Care Fund	2082 Feed The Children
2089 Alcohol & Drug Recovery Fund	2086 Fellowship of Christian Athletes
2005 Alliance Defense Fund	2087 Focus on the Family
2056 American Family Association	2044 Food for the Hungry, Inc.
2058 Americans Caring for Children Worldwide	2089 Home School Foundation
2001 Association for Christian Communities, Teaching & Service (ACCTS)	2088 International Christian Concern
2022 Association of Gospel	2080 Kids for the Kingdom
2086 Rescue Missions	2080 Life, Inc.
2059 Azusa Oaks International	2081 Mercy Ships
2050 Baptist World Alliance	2082 Mexican Medical
2083 Bible League	2046 Military Community Youth Ministries
2016 Billy Graham Evangelistic Association	2037 Mission Andean Fellowship
2086 Blessings International	2041 Moody Bible Institute
2008 Codacci International	2014 MOPS International
2004 Compassion Foundation	2087 Navigators, The
2004 Compassion Foundation	2088 Nazarene Compassionate Ministries, Inc.
2004 Compassion Foundation	2018 Officers' Christian Fellowship of the USA
2053 Core Net	2038 Operation Blessing International Relief and Development Corp
2059 Child Abuse Intervention Fund	2029 Prison Fellowship Ministries
2038 Children's Christian Hunger Network	2081 Prison Fellowship Ministries
2028 Children's First Fund/World Emergency Relief	2085 Promise Keepers
2038 Children's Hospital/Christ	2086 Samaritan's Purse
2027 Children's Hunger Relief Fund	2048 Senior Care Fund
2034 Children's Survival Fund	2044 Society of St. Andrew
2083 Christian Blind Mission International	2025 Voice of the Martyrs, The
2028 Christian Broadcasting Network, The	2025 Work Concern (A Division of)
2034 Christian Foundation for Children	2078 Worldwide Christian Schools
2034 Christian Legal Society	2025 Worldwide Bible Translators
	2029 Young Life

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IC SERVICES
(93041)

Rare brain disease

ATLANTA — Emory University Hospital has confirmed that a brain surgery patient does not have the human version of mad cow disease, but does have a rare, fatal disorder that resembles it.

The hospital issued an alert more than a week ago saying preliminary tests on the unidentified patient produced a diagnosis of Creutzfeldt-Jakob disease. The human form of mad cow disease is called variant

Creutzfeldt-Jakob disease. Medical Director Robert B. Smith III said it is extremely unlikely other patients would have been exposed to the disease.

From The Associated Press

Tour operator loses family in crash

15 victims of Ark. bus wreck killed, niece, man's wife, niece, brother, stepson

The Associated Press

MARION, Ark. — The lone bus belonging to a mom-and-pop tour operator careened off an interstate and overturned early Saturday, killing 15 Chicago-area travelers on their way to a Mississippi casino. Witnesses told police the bus, which carried family and friends of the tour company owner, was drifting.

The bus was about 30 miles short of its destination in Tunica, Miss., when the crash happened about 5 a.m. on Interstate 55 in northern Arkansas, near Memphis, Tenn.

Thirty-one people were aboard, and the remaining 16 passengers all were injured, many critically. Some of the dead were found crushed beneath the bus after wrecker crews pulled it upright, state police spokesman Bill Sadler said.

Among the dead was the bus owner's brother, who had been driving. The owner's wife, stepson and niece also died. The driver, Herbert Walters, was believed to be in his 60s.

Witnesses told police the bus drifted off the road near a point where the interstate veers to take travelers into Memphis.



This is an aerial view of an overturned tour bus Saturday after it crashed off Interstate 55 near Marion, Ark. The bus was carrying 31 people to a Mississippi casino; fifteen of them were killed.

The bus, "just kind of faded over there," said Cpl. Mickey Strayhorn of the Arkansas State Police. "There was not really any erratic driving before this occurred."

A light mist was falling at the time of the crash, but visibility did not appear to be significantly limited, police said.

The impact tore off a section of the bus' roof, and emergency workers had to shear off the rest of the top to reach a trapped passenger.

Tracks in the grass showed the bus went straight rather than around the curve, then hit a ditch and flipped over. There were no skid marks.

"They had to cut it [the roof] free from the bus, but it was peeled off more or less," Strayhorn said.

Other victims, thrown from the bus, were scattered among grass and weeds at an interstate exchange, along with popped-open suitcases and other belongings.

Sgt. David Moore, describing the force of the impact, said it would be "similar to an explosion. There were people everywhere."

Assistant Fire Chief John Burns of West Memphis said when he and a crew of firefighters arrived at the scene, "there was nobody walking around — everybody was laying down."

"It wasn't the scene where you see everybody screaming and crying for help," Burns said.

State police had a partial list of passengers and were going through debris to identify the others.

Sadler said 14 people died at the scene. Hospitals reported receiving a total of 17 people, including one who later died.

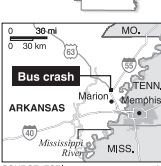
Witnesses and survivors told police the trip was uneventful, then "the next thing we knew, we were off the road," Sadler said.

The bus went down a slight incline and flipped as it cut through a ditch, stopping about 100 yards from the highway.

At least 15 die in tour bus crash

A bus carrying Chicago-area tourists to a Mississippi casino crashed and overturned outside Marion, Ark. around 5 a.m.

Saturday morning killing about half of the people onboard.



SOURCE: ESRI

Roosevelt Walters, who operated Walters Charter and Tours of Chicago, said his wife, who died in the crash, had organized the trip for a group of friends, retirees and teachers. He said his brother, Herbert Walters, was driving.

Police cautioned that investigators may not know what happened for weeks.

Both Roosevelt and Herbert Walters held commercial driver's licenses issued to drivers of large trucks and tour buses, said Dave Drucker, a spokesman for the Illinois secretary of state's office.

Records dating back about 10 years indicated both had clean driving records, with no tickets or violations, Drucker said.

Deaf students struggle to get diplomas

BY SHEILA H. BYRD

The Associated Press

JACKSON, Miss. — For all of Lynn Lane's 17 years, she has never once heard a spoken word. And more importantly, she has never heard the way words fit together to form the English language.

Deaf students like Lane who have relied their entire lives on the shorthand of sign language to communicate often have a tough time catching on to the subtleties of the written word, which can be as hard to pick up as a second language.

Yet in Mississippi and other parts of the nation, deaf students are required to pass the same assessment tests as their hearing counterparts to receive a high school diploma. Though they can usually pass subjects like history or algebra, English is the roadblock that routinely delays or prohibits their graduation.

Educators at the Mississippi School for the Blind and Deaf say no deaf student has ever passed the English assessment test on the first try. The overall first-try pass rate for hearing and disabled students is 83.1 percent.

"These tests are grossly unfair to deaf students. Hearing children are exposed to so much English language from birth. Deaf students don't get that exposure to English," said Jean Andrews, director of graduate programs in deaf studies/education at Lamar University in Texas.

"These tests are grossly unfair to deaf students. Hearing children are exposed to so much English language from birth. Deaf students don't get that exposure to English."

Jean Andrews

Lamar University director of graduate programs in deaf studies/deaf education

Sign language isn't always translated word for word into English.

For instance, you wouldn't sign the phrase "raining cats and dogs" verbatim. Instead, the phrase would be signed "raining heavily." But if a student never heard the phrase, how could they know what it means? And experts say the average deaf child isn't introduced to English until age 6, when he or she enters school.

Historically, deaf students have had a hard time taking standardized achievement tests, particularly in reading, said Dr. Ross Mitchell, a research scientist at Gallaudet Research Institute at Gallaudet University in Washington, D.C.

The institute conducts a national study of the performance of deaf and hard-of-hearing students on standardized tests. Mitchell said many of those students do not demonstrate high-school level reading ability.

"From the standpoint of measurement, there are a lot of questions about whether or not the

tests that states have adopted are appropriate for special populations," Mitchell said.

The Mississippi state is appealing to state officials to at least allow deaf students to use a thesaurus, an accommodation made for non-English speaking students in the school system, such as Hispanics and Vietnamese.

That way, if a deaf student sees a word for which there is no sign, guess as "gorgeous," they could refer to the thesaurus and find "beautiful," a word they might recognize, said Dana Campbell, director of technology and public relations at the deaf school.

Lane excels in most subjects. She earned five A's and a B (in English) on her last progress report. She has passed nearly all the assessment tests required to graduate in May — except the vocabulary multiple-choice portion of the English test. "When I read the complete sentence, sometimes I might have overlooked some kind of idiom or figurative language I don't understand," Lane said through an interpreter.

Pending execution brings juvenile issue before Court

BY JIM SUHR

The Associated Press

ST. LOUIS — Eleven years later, the chilling imagery of her sister's murder still makes Pertie Mitchell shiver.

During a burglary, two teens stretched duct tape across Shirley Crook's mouth and eyes, then muscled her into her van. An hour later, the hogtied woman was dumped off into the murky Meramec River.

"Bubble, bubble," witnesses later said they heard Christopher Simmons snicker as the woman's body sank.

"It makes your hands sweat, your stomach sick," Mitchell said, hoping for the day that Simmons is put to death. "I will be there."

"I will watch him die."

The execution is not certain, though. Using the Simmons case, the U.S. Supreme Court will hear arguments Wednesday on whether it is constitutional to execute killers who were juveniles when the crimes were committed.

The court agreed to hear the case after the Missouri Supreme Court last year struck down executions of juveniles and re-sentenced Simmons, now 28, to life in prison, deciding that such executions violate "evolving stan-

dards of decency."

Nineteen states allow executions of killers who were 16 or 17 at the time of the crime. Since the 1976 reinstatement of the death penalty, 22 people — 13 of them in Texas — have been executed

for crimes committed as 16- or 17-year-olds. The U.S. Supreme Court in 1988 barred the death penalty for those 15 and younger.

Simmons advocates have said that executing people who kill as juveniles would be just as wrong as putting to death the mentally challenged, a practice outlawed by the Supreme Court in 2002.

People less than 18 years old, some, don't have fully developed brains and are incapable of making rational decisions.

Mitchell believes Simmons, who was then 17, was old enough to know right from wrong.

"You know how many people get married or join the service when they're 16 or 18 years old?" said Mitchell, 66. "This man has nothing to justify what he did."

Bush, Kerry in attack mode following debate

BY NEDRA PICKLER
AND JENNIFER LOVES
The Associated Press

ELYRIA, Ohio — President Bush and Sen. John Kerry, their animosity stirred by a contentious second debate, lit into each other over Iraq, jobs and debate performance on Saturday in critical battleground states.

Kerry "doesn't pass the credibility test," Bush asserted, while the Massachusetts senator claimed that the nation's choice "could really not have been more clear than it was last night."

Instant polls did not give either Bush or Kerry a clear edge in Friday's wide-ranging debate in St.

Louis before an audience of uncommitted voters, depicting either a tie or a slight edge for Kerry.

But Republicans were heartened by what they saw as a steadier, more focused and aggressive performance by the president than in the first debate, where he displayed bouts of impatience and peevishness.

Bush and Kerry ventured into each other's "must win" states, Bush campaigning in Iowa and Minnesota and Kerry in Ohio and Florida.

Democrat Al Gore won both Minnesota and Iowa in 2000, but polls show the race to be extremely close this year. Bush won Ohio and Florida in 2000, and GOP

strategists are hard pressed to see a Bush victory without carrying those two states, with their combined total of 47 electoral votes.

Both candidates sharply criticized the other's debate performance.

"The reason I thought he was making all those scowling faces was because he saw the latest job numbers," Kerry told about 10,000 people at a rally in this northeastern Ohio community. At another point, Kerry joked that he was "a little worried... I thought the president was going to attack (moderator) Charlie Gibson."

Kerry advisers said he plans intense attacks in the coming days over domestic issues, including

Debate word watch

Analysis of the second of three presidential debates by Hamilton-Locke Inc. using WordCruncher, a text analysis tool developed at Brigham Young University.

6,421	TOTAL WORD COUNT	7,781
99	REFERENCES TO DEFENSE	86
80	THE ECONOMY	85
26	HEALTH CARE	39
2	EDUCATION	26

SOURCE: WordCruncher Analysis, Hamilton-Locke Inc. (www.hamiltonlocke.com) AP

job losses, rising health care costs, and stem-cell research, in the run-up to Wednesday's concluding debate in Tempe, Ariz.

In Davie, Fla., Kerry criticized Bush for saying in the debate that he won't allow prescription imports from Canada.

Satellite radio taking off with Sirius, XM signing shock jocks

BY LARRY MCSHANE
The Associated Press

NEW YORK — When shock jocks Opie and Anthony considered their next career move after two firings in four years, the twisted twosome was ready to feign rehabilitation.

Or at least that was the plan when they set out with satellite radio executives.

"We were trying to convince them that we're reformed now, we've learned our lesson," recalled Greg "Opie" Hughes, one-half of the deposed radio ratings juggernaut.

"And we heard over and over again, 'Guys, just go crazy. Do whatever you want in there.'"

Welcome to the future of American radio.

O&A — as they're known to a legion of loyal fans — debuted last week on XM Satellite Radio, bringing their slime of boy's locker room life to every market from coast to coast.

The industry's other big player, Sirius Satellite Radio, then announced a staggering \$500 million deal with self-proclaimed "King of All Media" Howard Stern.

If satellite radio was off a lot of listeners' radar before last week, it now looms as large as the antenna atop the Empire State Building.

Expect more and more big-name defec-

tions from the AM and FM dials if the current Federal Communications Commission crackdown on content continues, one industry expert predicts.

"The ancient regulations that the FCC is imposing on terrestrial radio are out of step with reality, and definitely striking a blow against AM and FM radio's ability to remain culturally pertinent," said Michael Harrison, founder of the trade publication Talkers magazine.

Translation: the post-Jean Jackson broadcasting world, with its increased government scrutiny and million-dollar fines for ill-defined indecency, is the best recruiting tool for satellite radio since beginning broadcasting three years ago.

Both Stern and XM's new headline-making duo rejected lucrative offers to remain on traditional radio.

And both cited constant censorship, from their employers and the FCC, for driving them off.

"I'm going because I choose to, not because I was forced out," Stern said after announcing his January 2006 switch to his 12 million daily listeners.

"They've lured radio's biggest star to satellite. It's attractive now to do satellite." Even Hughes and partner Anthony Cumia, who loathe Stern after a lengthy on-air feud, agreed his decision lent more legitimacy to a business that could use the attention.

Sirius has lost an estimated \$1 billion since its launch.

"It's put the spotlight on satellite radio," said Cumia after the pair finished their first week of shows. "Just because personally he's an (expletive) doesn't mean he isn't a huge radio star."



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- 1714 Foundation Fighting Blindness
- 1716 Glaucoma Research Foundation
- 1712 Guillain-Barre Syndrome Foundation International
- 1718 Hope Heart Institute, The
- 1706 Infectious Disease Research Center
- 1702 Interstitial Cystitis Association of America
- 1724 Lyme Disease Foundation
- 1746 Marrow Foundation, The
- 1721 Multiple Sclerosis National Research Institute
- 1717 National Alliance for Autism Research
- 1730 National Eating Disorders Association
- 1728 Osteogenesis Imperfecta Foundation
- 1710 Prostate Cancer Foundation (formerly CoP CURE)
- 1725 United Leukodystrophy Foundation, The
- 1723 V Foundation, The

CFC# 1700

Former Douglas Aircraft official dies at age 87

LOS ANGELES — Donald W. Douglas Jr., who as president of Douglas Aircraft Co. introduced the DC-8 airliner and brought the aircraft manufacturer into the jet age, has died. He was 87.

Douglas, the son of famed aircraft designer and Douglas Aircraft founder Donald Douglas, died Oct. 3, according to the company's Web site.

Douglas died at Menifee Valley Medical Center, the Los Angeles Times reported in Saturday's edition. He had been in declining health since suffering a fall two months ago, the paper reported.

Douglas was named president of the company in 1957, a year before the DC-8 was introduced. A decade later, the financially ailing company merged with McDonnell Aircraft, which merged with Boeing in 1997.

Douglas started with his father's company in 1939 as an engineer. In 1945 he became manager of flight testing, overseeing the creation of such warplanes as the C-54 transport plane.

Douglas later was appointed director of the testing division and under his direction the DC-6 and DC-7 airliners were certified. They became the most successful propeller-driven passenger aircraft ever made.

Man gets life sentence in murder-for-hire attempt

HUNTSVILLE, Texas — A man already imprisoned for his role in a 1973 shooting spree that left three dead was given a life sentence for trying to hire a hit man to kill a prosecutor and former police officer.

Larry Casey, 52, had been serving a 99-year prison sentence for the 1973 crime, but had been scheduled to be released in 2006 after getting good-behavior credit.

A jury convicted him Thursday on two charges of solicitation of capital murder, finding he had tried in December to hire a hit man to kill Harris County Assistant District Attorney Bert Graham and former Houston police officer David Sheetz. Graham originally prosecuted Casey, while Sheetz arrested Casey in 1973 on unrelated charges.

The same jury sentenced Casey to life in prison Friday after hearing testimony from a pair of victims who survived the 1973 shooting spree.

Karen Kurtz, who was 10 at the time of the shooting, testified that she was walking home with her sister and a friend when Casey pulled up and put a gun out of the car window. After asking Casey if it was a toy gun, Kurtz was shot.

From The Associated Press

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Draft more fair than stop loss

I feel almost betrayed that the House of Representatives voted overwhelmingly to defeat a bill reconstituting the draft. I will complete my second tour in Iraq in February, and my unit is already scheduled for its third tour in November 2005. I am not complaining, but as I look toward my ETS date of January 2006, I stand absolutely convinced that I will be stop-lossed and forced to return to Iraq.

Why should the civilian population of our country be protected from forced service, while our soldiers are not? Stop loss is a de facto draft that forces military personnel, some who have already fulfilled their obligations, to remain in the military for extended periods of time. If our military is spread to the point where it needs to extend the enlistments of our soldiers in order to fill the manpower requirements of its obligations, then couldn't it be that the military is undermanned?

Some say that freedom is not free, but many young people in America today are sure getting it at wholesale prices.

Why is it that only a select group of patriotic Americans has the burden of defending our entire nation? How can people support the war, and not a draft? War is OK, so long as their children are not the ones fighting it. I know that hanging out, listening to Dr. Dre and partying are very important activities, but isn't the defense of our nation also important?

If we as a nation are truly committed to our war on terrorism, then we must inevitably face the fact that our nation's freedom sometimes, God forbid, requires sacrifice.

David M. Ebert
Camp Anacosta, Iraq

Drinking it all in

I commend Sgt. Dale Rogers for his entrepreneurship and ingenuity starting his Web site, described in the Oct. 4 article by Seth Robson, "Legal buzz 'beer' for soldiers' Internet site."

Why is it that only a select group of patriotic Americans has the burden of defending our entire nation? How can people support the war, and not a draft? War is OK, so long as their children are not the ones fighting it. I know that hanging out, listening to Dr. Dre and partying are very important activities, but isn't the defense of our nation also important?

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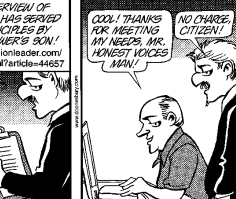
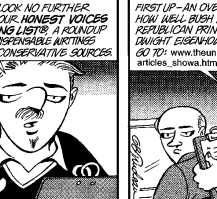
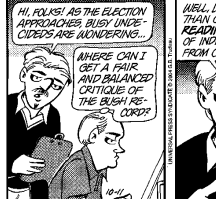
By DALE MCFEATERS

Scripts Howard

Despite four previous rounds of military closure proposals, the Defense Department still estimates that it has 20 percent to 25 percent excess capacity. But base closings are tricky politically and lawmakers have to do it.

That's why it's an act of some statesmanship that the House agreed, in putting the final touches on a defense bill, to drop a provision it adopted in May postponing a scheduled round of base closings from next year to 2007.

Doonesbury



Let's give the "legal folks" a break, I've sat in on a military trial and I've seen how hard our JAG Corps personnel work in trying to keep us out of trouble.

I'm prior-service and the 2nd Infantry Division was my first duty assignment when I was enlisted. I can understand why Sgt. Rogers wanted more beer and I wish all of them safe return. I'll keep them in my prayers.

Capt. Ralph Ray Stanton Jr.
Würzburg, Germany

Give credit to all units

I am the wife of a Texas National Guardsman with 1836th Transportation Company based out of El Paso, Texas, and the mother of a soldier with Headquarters and Headquarters Troop, 1st Squadron, 7th Cavalry, 1st Cavalry Division from Fort Hood, Texas. I have two concerns. One is, my husband being a National Guard, I don't see his unit mentioned anywhere giving it recognition for the work the soldiers do. Even though they are based in Kuwait City, they transport anything from A to Z throughout Iraq and have driven 1 million miles in five months, more than the unit they replaced. My husband's unit has been there since Feb. 14.

When my husband came home for rest and recuperation, he brought back at least 30 Stars and Stripes and it's very rare you see anything about Reserve or National Guard even though they are still active and deserve to get credit. Don't you think it's a real morale booster when they read about another transportation companies while they get no credit? Their job is just as dangerous as the others.

And in regards to my son, I commend the military and the National Guard for the goodwill missions that they are doing, but I think if the children don't appreciate the toys that are given to them, then the soldiers shouldn't give them anymore. My son had a big rock thrown at his face after he gave a toy to a child.

Deborah Norton
Lampasas, Texas

Right time for Round 5 of base closings

The military began trying to close excess bases in the 1960s only to be frustrated by lawmakers fiercely defending installations in their home districts. Finally, in 1998, Congress agreed on a Base Realignment and Closure Commission to decide, based on an elaborate set of safeguards, which bases to close. Congress could not pick apart the commission's recommendations; it had to accept them or reject them in their entirety.

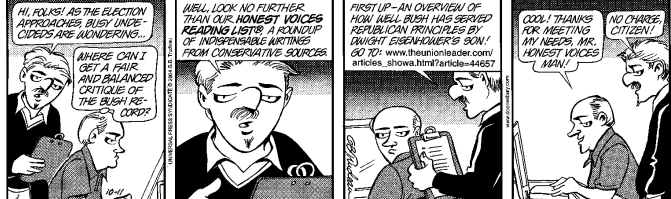
Since then, there have been four rounds that closed 97 surplus bases and subjected 55 others to major realignments at ongoing savings of \$6 billion a year. The Congress stopped in 1995 when

Republicans charged that President Clinton had subverted the process to save two bases so as to score political points in Texas and Colorado.

The Bush administration has been trying to relaunch the process ever since it took office — only to be frustrated by Congress. Finally, the White House threatened to veto this bill if it came to the president's desk minus the base closings, and for whatever reason the House wisely relented.

The Pentagon says a new round of closings will save \$3.5 billion a year, and for what we're now spending on defense, we need to save every billion we can.

By GARRY TRUDEAU



OPINION

Bush's goals for Iraq grow more ambitious

BY JOHN HALL
Media General

Vice President Dick Cheney complained during last week's debate that Iraq's forces were not getting as much credit as American troops for casualties in the Iraq war. He grew irritated, almost indignant, when his opponent, Sen. John Edwards, said U.S. forces were bearing 90 percent of coalition fatalities.

Iraqi security forces "have suffered casualties, as well as the allies," and when you include them, "the 90 percent figure is just dead wrong," said Cheney. "... So your facts are just wrong, senator."

Cheney said the real figure is that Iraqis "have taken almost 50 percent of the casualties in operations in Iraq." That, he said, "leaves the U.S. with 50 percent, not 90 percent."

Edwards did not challenge these numbers. How could? There is no accurate Iraqi body count. A private group has estimated there may be 15,000 civilian dead in Iraq but that is little more than a guess.

The Pentagon keeps detailed U.S. casualty figures. The combat death toll rose above 1,060 last week. But that's only a partial description of the cost of this war on American families and lives.

The Defense Department said 4,194 have been wounded so seriously they could not be returned to duty.

These are heavy losses to achieve freedom for another nation. But President Bush last week, in his Wilkes-Barre, Pa., speech, escalated the mission another notch by declaring that Iraq should become not only a "free society at the heart of the Middle

East," but an ally in the war on terror and "a model of hopeful reform in a region that needs hopeful reform." If Iraq can be free, he said, "every free nation will be more secure."

Those were not the goals he originally set. Going into the invasion, the objective was more limited and specific: to disarm Iraq and rid it of weapons of mass destruction. But last week, a final report from Bush's own disarmament inspectors confirmed that there were no such weapons.

Nonetheless, Bush and Cheney said that finding no weapons made no difference. Saddam Hussein was a state sponsor of terror who eventually would have acquired unconventional weapons, they predicted.

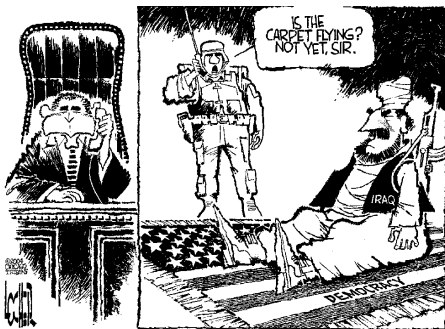
With an active terrorist insurgency and rockets falling on a Baghdad hotel last week, it is hard to see how Iraq will become a model to the Arab and Muslim world in the near future.

And for U.S. military services, the model is beginning to look a lot like the "falling domino" theory of the Vietnam War, in which some American officials felt U.S. forces needed to make a stand to stop the spread of communism throughout Southeast Asia and into the Pacific. Freedom modeling sounds bothersome.

"The Iraqi people need to know that America will not cut and run when their freedom is at stake," said Bush, charging that Kerry would do just that. Kerry denied vociferously that he would leave Iraq in the lurch.

The debate is just high-stakes politics. But on another level, there is some real confusion about the goal and timetable in Iraq.

None of it seems to square with recent hints that U.S. troops can leave in a year or



so, even if the security situation remains problematic.

A decade or more of hard slogging by coalition forces could be needed to achieve the kind of peace and quiet for Iraq to be a true model democracy.

From the beginning, well before 9/11, Cheney and his neoconservatives seemed eager to risk American lives to topple Saddam in pursuit of "regime change." But the Iraqis inside and out who were said to be ready to fight to get their country back never

seemed to materialize.

American troops who were killed in Iraq and those who came back broken and maimed gave a lot and are heroes. This country has suffered from this war.

Iraq has suffered, too. And large numbers of its security forces have died, some of them heroically and some while standing in line to sign up as soldiers. Their blood is the same color. Their families grieve just as mightily. But it is, after all, their country.

John Hall is the senior Washington correspondent of Media General News Service.

On Election Day, twice is nice — for the sacrifice

BY GEORGE J. BRYJAK

THE history of voting rights in the United States has been one of increasing participation. In 1776, suffrage was overwhelmingly the privilege of property-owning, white Protestant males over 21. Over the next two centuries African-Americans (1870), women (1920), all American Indians (1948) and 18-year-olds (1971) won the right to cast ballots. It's time for the next step in the evolution of voting rights in this country: The U.S. Constitution should be amended to give active military personnel and veterans an additional vote. That is, they should be permitted two ballots each in local, state and federal elections.

The precedent for a "weighted" electorate already exists. As consequence of laws in 48 states and the District of Columbia, 4.7 million current and former convicted felons (1 in 43 adults) have lost the right to vote, in some instances for life.

If we disenfranchise a category of citizens because their behavior has undermined the well-being of society, it makes equal sense to reward those individuals whose conduct insures the safety and security of the nation. Military service is ultimately about killing and dying for one's country. Killing (even a hated enemy) does not come easily to many individuals, and nobody wants to die on a distant battlefield.

During peacetime, thousands of military personnel are injured every year, and many more lose their lives via training accidents. Members of the armed forces are separated from family and friends for extended periods of time and must place jobs, careers and education on hold for years while they serve.

Individuals who voluntarily place themselves in harm's way for their country

should have a greater voice in how that country is governed. Politicians would pay particular attention to veterans — as well they should — to gain support of a large and particularly influential group of voters.

No doubt many will cry "foul" at such a proposal, viewing it as radical departure from an ethic of political fairness and equality. Unfortunately, the reality that each citizen, regardless of his or her station in life, has an equal impact on government is long gone — if, in fact, it ever existed. Only the most naive individual fails to understand that corporations and a plethora of special-interest groups (by way of campaign contributions) have a monumentally disproportionate impact on elected officials at all levels of government.

It's time to even out the top-heavy, political decision-making process in this coun-

try. How can a people who sheepishly accept a "corporate democracy" object to increased political input from the mostly working and lower middle-class individuals who comprise the American military?

From its inception, this nation has espoused ideal values of freedom, equality and fairness. However, the reality of our history has been a struggle by women, people of color and other minorities to realize these values. As we move toward a more equitable and just society, "life chances" will become more a function of individual ability and less a matter of skin color, gender and other inherited characteristics. However, as long as we have an armed forces consisting of volunteers, "death chances" will never be fair and equitable.

A completely just and equitable society would adopt a system of compulsory military service wherein every citizen, male

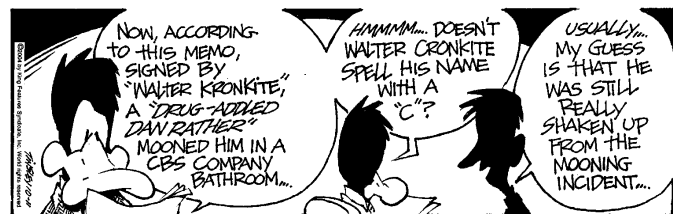
and female, rich and poor, would have an equal opportunity to bill and die for his or her flag. In the United States, the idea of universal military participation is highly unpopular with both liberals and conservatives. As this aversion to compulsory service is unlikely to change, the nation always will be composed of those who are willing to make the ultimate sacrifice for their country and those who are not.

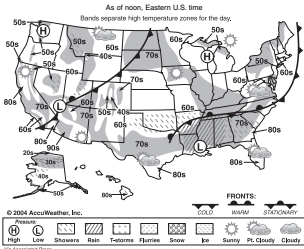
Politicians of every stripe — especially in times of conflict — never tire of stating that the armed forces represent the nation's best and bravest men and women. If they truly believe what they say, it's time for them to act on these convictions. Congress should commence discussions immediately toward amending the Constitution to grant current and former service personnel additional voting rights.

George J. Bryjak is a professor of sociology at the University of San Diego.

Mallard Fillmore

BY BRUCE TINSLEY





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Golfing snake

HI KAHULUI — A 4-foot snake believed to be a ball python was captured on the golf course at Mahealani Resort on Maui, state wildlife officials said.

Deborah Ward, a spokeswoman for the state Department of Natural Resources, said the 8-pound snake was captured after a golf course pro-shop employee spotted it and called police, who notified wildlife officials.

It's unknown how the python snake arrived on Maui. Possessing a snake is illegal in Hawaii and punishable by fines of up to \$200,000 and up to three years in prison.

Ball pythons, which can grow up to six feet long, are common in the pet trade on the mainland. They are native to west-central and west Africa and feed on small mammals and birds.

Charge dismissed

CA LOS ANGELES — A man accused of murder for a fatal auto crash will not be retried on that charge because prosecutors failed to disclose that an expert witness made numerous errors at the police department crime lab, a judge ruled.

The judge said that prosecutors knew Jeff Lowe had incorrectly weighed narcotics in 27 cases but did not tell murder defendant Philip Ray's lawyer.

Rawl was charged in connection with a June 2002 crash that killed one of his passengers. He was convicted of vehicular manslaughter after driving under the influence, but juries in two trials both deadlocked on the murder charge.

Los Angeles County Superior Court Judge Stephen A. Marcus let stand the convictions on the manslaughter and DUI counts and sentenced Rawl to eight years in prison.

New cannon uncovered

NC BEAUFORT — Underwater archaeologists have found another cannon from the wreckage of what they believe was the flagship of the notorious pirate Blackbeard.

Historical records indicate Blackbeard had 40 guns on the French frigate he captured in 1717 and renamed Queen Anne's Revenge. Since 1996, when the wreckage of the ship was discovered in Beaufort Inlet, divers have found 22 at the site.

"We're pretty positive that we have cannon number 23," said project archaeologist Chris Southery.

It is a large cannon that probably shot a 6-pound or 8-pound ball, Southery said. Divers uncovered the cannon while excavating an area of the shipwreck's northwest side where they had not previously dug.

Pesticides not culprit

NY STONY BROOK — Researchers have concluded that pesticides used to prevent the spread of the West Nile virus were not a major factor in the 1999 lobster die-off in Long Island Sound.

Scientists said the deaths were caused by several factors, including warmer-than-usual water, low



AMERICAN ROUNDUP

oxygen levels, unhealthy levels of ammonia and hydrogen sulfide, and infectious diseases.

The findings were the result of three years of research by scientists in Long Island and Connecticut, who presented their conclusions at the fourth annual Long Island Sound Lobster Health Symposium at the State University of New York at Stony Brook.

Lobstermen first reported the problem when they found a high number of dead and diseased lobsters in their traps. The die-off rattled the industry, sending 75 percent of full-time lobstermen and New York out of the trade.

Shedding elephant weight

AK ANCHORAGE — Maggie needs to lose some weight, and it isn't easy finding a treadmill to keep up with her 9,000-pound frame.

The Alaska Zoo is building what it believes to be the world's first elephant treadmill as part of plans to enrich the life of its only elephant with better accommodation and activities.

At 9,120 pounds, Maggie could stand to slim down. Zoo officials are talking with engineers and manufacturers about building Maggie her very own exercise equipment.

"Elephants are just like people,



Little raker

One-year-old Kaliee Griffin of Gordon, Wis., helps rake a lawn in Solon Springs, Wis.

they will be as lazy as they can be and still eat," said zoo director Tex Edwards.

Designing and building the first elephant treadmill could cost between \$150,000 and \$250,000, Edwards said.

The zoo has talked with mining experts because they know about heavy loads, conveyors and belts.

Grizzly attack

WY JACKSON — Weston Scott crept through the dense forest looking to flush out an elk. He got excited when he heard rustling about 10 feet ahead, in some bushes.

What Scott saw in those first seconds was a bear's head coming right at him. He drew up his rifle but managed only to get a shot off from about his hip before the 600-pound grizzly was on top of him.

It took out four teeth on Scott's lower jaw and a 1-inch portion of jawbone.

Scott later told his wife, Tammy, that he was sure he would die when he saw the bear so close. He told her the bear made no sounds — no grunting or growling.

Officials said the animal was then killed by a hunting companion acting in self-defense.

Fired for E.T. searching

OH COLUMBUS — The search for extraterrestrial life has ended at the Ohio Department of Job and Family Services.

The department fired a computer programmer who admitted to using a state-owned computer server to process data for the Search for Extraterrestrial Intelligence project, run by the University of California at Berkeley.

Charles E. Smith, 63, told administrators he didn't think building the SETI software on the server was much of a problem because he ran the program only on weekends and on weekdays between 7 p.m. and 7 a.m., when the server wasn't being used, according to a disciplinary report.

Department director Tom Hayes disagreed.

"I understand his desire to search for intelligent life in outer space, because obviously he doesn't find it in the mirror in the morning," Hayes said. "I think that people can be comfortable that security has beamed this man out of our building."

Task force criticized

PA PHILADELPHIA — The head of the Philadelphia school district has created a task force of religious leaders to establish closer ties with faith-based groups, a move critics say risks violating the separation between church and state.

Paul Vallas, the district's chief executive officer, said the panel could help with tutoring, mentoring, counseling and organizing faith-based clubs.

The task force of rabbis, ministers and other clergy could become one of the largest collaborations of its kind, according to national experts.

But opponents say the collaboration is inappropriate and could be illegal.



Fall fisherman

Ken Long of Turners Falls, Mass., fishes from his kayak in the Connecticut River setback in Vernon, Vt.

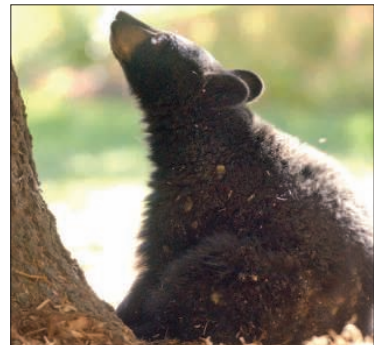


Relaxing study

Rhonda Johnson, a fine arts major at Idaho State University, studies on the quad in Pocatello, Idaho.



Football for women Arizona Cardinals kick returner Josh Scobey, right, helps Kimberly Gallo of Chandler, Ariz., don his uniform as part of a Football Clinic for Women at the team's training facility in Tempe, Ariz.



Where the bear cub roams A black bear cub peers up a pine tree where its mother and sibling sat perched in Bozeman, Mont. The cub ambled around the back yard of a home before heading back up the tree.



Frat games Lee Boyd, left, cheers on "Prairie Dog Runner" during the Outhouse Blowout race in Graves, Ky. The group are members of Phi Kappa Tau at Centre College in Danville, Ky.

Driver gets 15 years

FL PORT LAUDERDALE — A driver who caused a deadly crash after running five stoplights at 70 mph because he was late for work was sentenced to 15 years in prison.

Timothy Bacon, 40, pleaded guilty to vehicular homicide and other charges in a 2003 wreck that killed another driver, William Yates, 62.

Bacon told the judge that he "didn't know what came over" him the day of the crash. A toxicology report showed he had cocaine in his system.

Google solves the case

WA MOXEE — Google, the Internet search engine, has done something that law enforcement officials and their computer tools could not: Identify a man who died in an apparent hit-and-run accident 11 years ago in this small town outside Yakima.

Detective Pat Ditter of the Washington State Patrol searched with Google for about a week before identifying the victim as David Glen Lewis, 39, who died 1,606 miles from his home in Amarillo, Texas.

Lewis had no known ties to central Washington, and his presence in the area is still a mystery, Ditter said.

Ditter said he turned to Google after reading a series of newspaper stories about long-unsolved missing-person cases.

He came across a distinctive pair of glasses in a photograph on the Web sites of the Texas Department of Public Safety and the Doe Network, an international volunteer organization devoted to solving unidentified cases.

Messy money

IA BURLINGTON — A psychiatrist made a stink over paying a parking ticket, using dirty money to cover the fine.

Police say Ronald Preston McPike has been charged with harassment of a public official for smearing excrement on dollar bills used to pay the ticket.

McPike, 52, pleaded not guilty to the charge, a misdemeanor, and was released on \$125 bond pending a Dec. 8 court appearance.

Officers received an envelope in July labeled "Foreign brown substance on bills."

Tests indicated the brown substance was fecal matter and indicated the stain patterns resulted from feces being smeared on the bills.

Arrest in accident

CT HARTFORD — Hartford police arrested a 12-year-old boy on a manslaughter charge, a day after his friend was killed when a screwdriver became lodged in his head. An autopsy determined that Errol Forrest, 12, died of an accidental head injury. But Hartford police said the injury resulted from reckless behavior.

Flower smuggler

FL MIAMI — An orchid dealer was sentenced to a year and five months in federal prison for scheming to smuggle prized tropical lady slipper orchids into the United States.

George W. Norris of Spring, Texas, was also sentenced to two years probation. Co-defendant Manuel Arias Silva, a Peruvian or-

chid grower, pleaded guilty in June and was sentenced in July to a year and nine months in prison.

The Peruvian lady slippers are considered seriously endangered in the wild and are protected by international treaty.

Remains to be reburied

NM LAS CRUCES — An anthropologist sent to survey partially buried ancient remains on federal land determined the bones belonged to a prehistoric American Indian. The bones will be reburied to comply with the Native American Graves Repatriation Act. The Bureau of Land Management wasn't sure which tribe the remains belonged to. A hiker found the remains after a washout.

Animal rescue ploy

OH MASON — An animal rescue group has admitted it created an advertising campaign for a fictitious restaurant serving horse meat to win support for its efforts to save horses from slaughter. Second Chance Horse Rescue ran the ads for the nonexistent Red Derby restaurant in local newspapers and on radio stations in Warren and Hamilton counties.

Trashy Big Apple

NY NEW YORK — New York's trash — 11,000 tons a day — will be hauled out of state on barges under a 20-year plan being proposed by Mayor Michael Bloomberg. The New York Times reported.

The plan would replace the city's current system of carting trash out of the state garbage trucks, a method that critics complain increases traffic congestion and pollution.

New York has been searching for a solution to its trash problems since the closing of the Fresh Kills landfill on Staten Island in 2001.

Judge appointed

OK OKLAHOMA CITY — Tom Colbert, chief judge of the Oklahoma Court of Civil Appeals, was appointed as the first black member of the Oklahoma Supreme Court. Gov. Brad Henry appointed Colbert to fill the vacancy created by the retirement of Justice Daniel Boudreau. Colbert, 54, has been on the Court of Appeals for almost four years.

Park to get center

CA LASSEN VOLCANIC NATIONAL PARK — One of the nation's oldest national parks is getting its first visitors' center. Officials of Lassen Volcanic National Park have completed designating the 10,000-square-foot center. The \$10 million construction project will begin next spring and is set for completion in late 2006.

Mass transit incentives

NJ RIVERSIDE — Mortgage giant Fannie Mae has teamed up with NJ Transit to promote homeownership near mass transit in New Jersey. Under the program, anyone buying a home within a half-mile of an NJ Transit train station or within a quarter-mile of a bus stop may be eligible for mortgage assistance and perks from the two agencies.

Stories and photos from wire services

FACES

Stella McCartney expecting child

Fashion designer Stella McCartney, daughter of former Beatle Paul McCartney and the late Linda McCartney, has announced that she is expecting her first child.



McCartney

McCartney made the announcement Thursday at the launch of her new spring/summer collection during Paris Fashion Week. A spokesman for the designer confirmed she was 3½ months pregnant.

McCartney, 33, married former publisher Alasdair Willis in August 2003.

The baby will be the third grandchild for the former Beatle. His eldest daughter, Mary, has two sons. His current wife, Heather Mills McCartney, gave birth to a daughter, Beatrice, last year.

Tiger Woods finally confirms nuptials

Tiger Woods finally confirmed Friday what everyone's known for the last three days: He married Swedish model Elin Nordegren in Barbados.

"There certainly has been a lot of speculation about my personal life, which is why Elin and I wanted to confirm that we got married on Tuesday," Woods said on his Web site. "Elin and I celebrated this wonderful occasion with our close friends and family, and we look forward to starting our new life together."

Woods canceled an appearance Sunday in Orlando, Fla., where he was to meet with winners of the Buick Scramble, the world's largest amateur golf event.

Combs to hold auditions for new show

Sean "P. Diddy" Combs is on the prowl for some ladies — who can sing and dance.

On Thursday, he announced dates for an open-call audition for his new MTV series, "Making the Band 3," a reality show about Combs producing an all-girl pop group.

"I want a group of women that can sing like Christina Aguilera and dance like Usher," Combs said.

"I'm looking to create an international supergroup to follow in the footsteps of the Supremes and Destiny's Child."

Combs hosted "Making the Band 2" for three seasons in which he formed a hip-hop group, Da Band, before disbanding them.

Love in court to set new date

A low-key Courtney Love made a brief court appearance and was told to return Oct. 27 for a preliminary hearing to determine if she stands trial for allegedly attacking a woman with a liquor bottle.

Love softly answered "yes" Thursday when asked if she agreed to the next court date.

Love has pleaded not guilty to the felony assault charge and is free on \$150,000 bail. She allegedly attacked the woman at an ex-boyfriend's home in April.



Love

Festival closes season with a profit

The Spoleto Festival USA finished its 2004 season in the black for the first time in eight seasons, festival managing director Nigel Redden said.

The Charleston, S.C., festival closed its books with a \$2.385 surplus in its \$6.8 million budget.

Redden had said earlier the festival was taking a risk by presenting the Chinese opera "The Peony Pavilion" in six three-hour sessions.

"Lucky, The Peony Pavilion" was well-received as was the appearance of Mikhail Baryshnikov," Redden said.

Baryshnikov appeared in the play "The Doctor and the Patient," a new work by Rezo Gabriadze.

The festival also set a new box-office record, selling \$2.5 million worth of tickets, about \$21,000 more than in 2003, Redden said. There were a record 141 events during the 2004 festival, during which nearly 70,000 tickets were sold.

Spoleto Festival USA was founded in 1977 as the American counterpart to a festival held annually in Spoleto, Italy. It fills Charleston's theaters, churches and outdoor spaces with performances of opera, theater, dance and music, as well as the visual arts.

Stories and photos from The Associated Press



KATHERINE FREY/The Washington Post

Director Edgar Wright is flanked by Simon Pegg, left, and Nick Frost, who star in "Shaun of the Dead," a film that celebrates zombie movies and, perhaps even more, British pub life. The hit British film is now playing in U.S. theaters.

Zombies with a twist of Monty Python

'Shaun of the Dead' turns horror into parody

BY TERRY LAWSON
Knight Ridder Newspapers

BIRMINGHAM, Mich. — In "Shaun of the Dead," the hit British zombie comedy that opened stateside last month, Nick Frost plays Ed, a slacker with no self-censoring mechanism: He blurts out whatever he thinks without any provocation.

So it's not much of a surprise how he responded when, asked what he and his mates — costar Simon Pegg, who co-wrote the script and plays the title character, and director and co-writer Edgar Wright — thought of Birmingham.

"It's a bit like 'Stepford Wives,' innit?" Frost says.

"Everything a wee bit too perfect."

"Well, all we really saw was the theater and the hotel," says Pegg, who as Ed's roommate in "Shaun of the Dead," spends half the movie apologizing for him. "I'm sure an initial observation doesn't tell the whole story."

The same might be said of "Shaun of the Dead," a parody of the classic zombie movie "Dawn of the Dead," which on one level is itself a parody of consumer culture.

Coming after the zombie film "28 Days Later" and the remake of George Romero's "Dawn of the Dead," "Shaun" could be perceived as a cash-in instead of what Britain's *Uncut* magazine called "the funniest British comedy since the Pythons packed it in."

"Yeah, we did really well with it back home," Frost says. "We even beat Jesus on Easter Sunday."

(What Frost means to say is that it fared better on Easter weekend than Mel Gibson's "The Passion of the

Christ.") Though Frost, Pegg and Wright are happy to acknowledge that their movie was influenced by Monty Python's movie parodies, as well as a lot of English TV shows (including "The Office," which has two cast members in "Shaun"), it was not a byproduct of the surprise success of "28 Days Later."

"We had finished the script and were ready to shoot long before we had heard of that movie," Pegg says. "Our financing fell through, so it took awhile to get that back together, and when we heard about '28 Days' our hearts sort of sank. But as it turned out, it may have ended up making people more receptive to the idea."

"Yeah," Frost says. "Zombies are in again."

Wright's point of view is this: "Shaun of the Dead" may feature a bit of flesh eating and brain splattering — and it respects zombie lore in insisting they can only be eradicated with a bullet to the head — but at its heart, the movie is an old-fashioned romantic comedy.

"A bit like 'Sleepless in Seattle,' really," says Pegg, straight-faced.

"More 'Notting Hill,' since it's British, only with more viscera," Frost says.

Shaun is a 29-year-old who lives with a more motivated and uptight roommate David, while Ed is essentially a squatter, avoiding rent and his portion of the bills, much to David's disgust. He orders Shaun to give him the boot.

But if it's Shaun who gets the boot from griffiness Liz (Kate Ashfield), She's decided that both the relationship and Shaun are going nowhere save the local pub, where they spend

most of their time — with Ed. Shaun is so upset with this he fails to notice that a zombie plague has infected London, and that rotting, hungry and resurrected corpses are staggering about on his block. (Anything that resembles news on the telly gets snuffed right over, of course.)

When reality finally invades his back yard, however, Shaun rises to the occasion, using the pub as HQ as he plots a way to rescue Liz and his dear old Mum (Penelope Wilton).

"The trick was to maintain a real zombie threat with having a laugh at what you Yanks call 'English reserve,' but which is actually more self-absorption," Pegg says. "I mean, we all love the original 'Dawn of the Dead,' and that's satire, but it's also terrifically scary."

Pegg and Wright made a list of rules that could not be violated, headed by the dictate that the zombies were not in on the joke. "They have zero sense of humor," Wright says. "They're dead, after all, that would take the fun out of it, I'd think."

When "Shaun" wrapped, Frost surprised himself by winning a lot in Woody Allen's upcoming and as-yet-untitled comedy.

In the wake of the British success of "Shaun," the trio is also planning to re-group for another comedy, which movie-fanatic Wright says will be a send-up of cop dramas, set in a rural England with pagan undertones, a la the cult hit "The Wicker Man." To prepare, Wright is forcing Pegg and Frost to endure nightly DVD screenings of films he thinks will be helpful, including the original "Walking Tall."

"Bloody awful, that movie," Pegg says.

"Yeah," Wright adds, "we all loved it."

Fotrot



B.C.



Baby Blues



Spider Man



Blondie



Dilbert



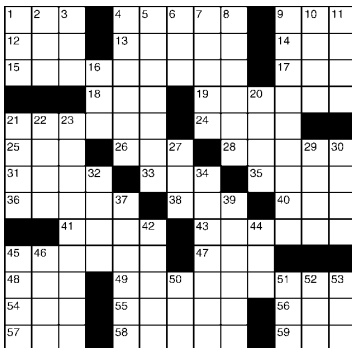
Hagar



Garfield



Eugene Sheffer Crossword



Across

- 1 Cribbage scorer
4 Aides (Abbr.)
9 To and —
12 Thoroughfare (Abbr.)
13 Chanteuse
14 "— Gang"
15 Jail
16 Mel of Cooperstown
18 "—, be seeing you"
19 Pledges
21 Legendary
24 Scream
25 Buckeyes' sch.
26 Hideaway
28 Fives one's fate
31 Underwater breathing apparatus
33 Bestow
35 Libertine
36 Windstorms
38 Slight amount
40 Round Table address
41 Put together
43 Biological categories
45 Adored
47 Tipped
48 Big bother
49 Object of a futile chase
54 Part of UCLA
55 2YK in-the-news kid
- 56 "Holy mackerel!"
57 Raw rock
58 Saxophonist's supply
59 "... as an elephant's —"
- 21 Verne hero
22 Europe's neighbor
23 Teddy's party
27 Enthusiast
29 "The Ghost and Mrs. —"
30 Antitoxins
32 Watergate problem
34 Mideastern capital
37 Spit in the food
39 Condescends
42 Roman magistrate
44 Sgt., for example
45 Head light?
46 Bloodhound's clue
50 Tall tale
51 Buy now, pay later
52 Sauce source
53 Lamb's dam

Answer to Previous Puzzle



10-11

CRYPTOQUIP

RKO DULCZBK DCYOW NX
WU DCLS NLRZNO RCVOV.
XOUXVO CZO BCVVQLH

KQD RKO VSOL' YQLH.
Saturday's Cryptoquip: OUR MAIL DELIVERY COMPANY IS ON THE CUTTING EDGE. IT'S ALWAYS PUSHING THE ENVELOPE.

Today's Cryptoquip Clue: D equals M

SCOREBOARD

AFN TV & Radio

Monday

AFN-Sports, 9:30 a.m. - Baseball: NL Division Series, Atlanta at Houston, Game 4.
AFN-Sports, 2 p.m. - Baseball: NL Division Series, Game 5, if necessary, or TBD.
AFN-Sports, 6:30 a.m. - Golf: Las Vegas in-flight, first round (60), or TBD.
AFN-Radio, 10 p.m. - Baseball: NL Division Series game, if necessary.

Tuesday

AFN-Sports, 2 a.m. - Baseball: NL Division Series, Game 6, if necessary, or TBD.
AFN-Atlantic, 3 a.m. - NFL: Tennessee at Green Bay.
AFN-Sports, 3 a.m. - NFL: Tennessee at Green Bay.
AFN-Radio, 5 a.m. - Motorcycle racing: MotoGP World Championship, Malaysia (40).
AFN-Sports, 5 a.m. - Outdoors: War-Mart Field (40).
AFN-Pacific, noon a.m. - NFL: Tennessee at Green Bay (40).
AFN-Sports, 1:30 p.m. - NFL: Atlanta: Next-to-last game (40).
AFN-Sports, 7 p.m. - NFL: Tennessee at Green Bay.

Wednesday

AFN-Sports, 2 a.m. - Baseball: At Championship Series, Boston at New York, Game 1.
AFN-Radio, 2 a.m. - Baseball: At Championship Series, Boston at New York, Game 1.
 All times Central European Time: Ind indicates delayed broadcast; all other times are subject to change. Some radio broadcasts not available in all areas. Visit www.afn.net for more information.

Pro football

NFL

AMERICAN CONFERENCE						
East	W	L	T	Pct	PP	PA
New England	3	0	0	1.000	81	53
N.Y. Giants	3	0	0	1.000	82	61
Carolina	2	0	0	1.000	87	61
Miami	0	4	0	.000	124	63
South						
Indianapolis	1	3	0	.750	124	62
Jacksonville	1	3	0	.750	52	91
Tennessee	1	3	0	.750	93	83
Kansas City	1	3	0	.750	61	92
North						
Pittsburgh	2	1	0	.750	78	71
Cleveland	2	1	0	.750	89	69
Oakland	2	1	0	.750	99	62
Cincinnati	2	1	0	.750	66	95
West						
Denver	3	0	1	.750	79	57
San Diego	2	2	0	.500	98	62
Dallas	2	1	0	.667	87	65
Kansas City	2	1	0	.667	89	64

NATIONAL CONFERENCE

East	W	L	T	Pct	PP	PA
Philadelphia	4	0	1	1.000	107	61
N.Y. Giants	3	1	0	.750	78	62
Washington	2	1	0	.667	57	65
N.Y. Giants	1	3	0	.250	61	68
South						
Atlanta	4	0	1	1.000	88	49
New Orleans	2	2	0	.500	77	87
Carolina	2	2	0	.500	82	68
Tampa Bay	0	4	0	.000	49	72
North						
Minnesota	2	1	0	.667	78	78
Detroit	2	1	0	.667	62	63
Green Bay	1	3	0	.250	72	94
West						
Seattle	3	0	1	1.000	65	83
St. Louis	2	2	0	.500	85	86
San Francisco	4	0	0	1.000	60	109

Sunday's games

Baseball
 Detroit at Dallas
 Oakland at Indianapolis
 Minnesota at Houston
 Cleveland at Pittsburgh
 Tampa Bay at New Orleans
 Buffalo at N.Y. Jets
 Arizona at San Diego
 St. Louis at Seattle
 Jacksonville at San Francisco
 Carolina at Denver
 Baltimore at Washington
 Open: Cincinnati, Kansas City, Philadelphia, Chicago

Monday's game
 Tennessee at Green Bay

Tuesday, Oct. 17
 Miami at Detroit
 Green Bay at Tennessee
 San Diego at Atlanta
 Washington at Chicago
 San Francisco at N.Y. Jets
 Seattle at New England
 Kansas City at Jacksonville
 Cincinnati at Cleveland
 Carolina at Philadelphia
 Pittsburgh at Dallas
 Denver at Oakland
 Minnesota at New Orleans
 Open: Indianapolis, N.Y. Giants, Baltimore

Auto racing

Mr. Goodcents 300

NASCAR Busch Series

Saturday

At Kansas Speedway

Kansas City, Mo.

Start length: 15 miles

Scheduled length in parentheses

1. (19) Joe Nemechek, Chevrolet, 204, 57.285.

2. (20) Greg Biffle, Ford, 204, 55.600.

3. (20) David Stremme, Dodge, 204, 55.925.

4. (18) Ashton Lewis Jr., Chevrolet, 204, 55.925.

5. (6) Ron Hornaday Jr., Chevrolet, 204, 54.675.

6. (15) J.J. Yeley, Chevrolet, 204, 53.275.

7. (20) Jason Keller, Ford, 204, 53.275.

8. (20) Casey Mears, Dodge, 204, 53.275.

9. (28) Stacy Compton, Ford, 204, 53.275.

10. (20) Wally Dallenbach Jr., Ford, 204, 53.275.

11. (13) Mike McLaughlin, Ford, 204, 52.475.

12. (14) Michael Waltrip, Chevrolet, 204, 52.475.

13. (12) Casey Mears, Dodge, 204, 52.705.

14. (14) Robby Gordon, Chevrolet, 204, 52.165.

15. (12) Kenny Wallace, Chevrolet, 204, 52.165.

16. (17) Brandon Miller, Chevrolet, 204, 52.165.

17. (1) Paul Menard, Chevrolet, 204, 52.165.

18. (13) Mike Bliss, Chevrolet, 202, 52.875.

19. (8) Mike Bliss, Chevrolet, 202, 52.165.

20. (20) Robert Pressley, Ford, 202, 52.325.

21. (21) Johnny Sauter, Chevrolet, 201, 52.225.

22. (21) Casey Atwood, Chevrolet, 201, 52.225.

23. (20) Chris Jones, Chevrolet, 201, 51.755.

24. (11) Blake Wesley, Chevrolet, 199, 52.815.

25. (21) Tony Stewart, Chevrolet, 198, 52.815.

26. (36) Stanton Barrett, Chevrolet, 198, 51.875.

27. (34) Travis Gravel, Chevrolet, 198, 51.875.

28. (41) Gus Wasson, Chevrolet, 198, 52.465.

29. (44) Kyle Busch, Chevrolet, 181, 52.985.

30. (51) Martin Truex Jr., Chevrolet, 162, 52.985.

31. (40) Derrick Coke, Ford, 151, electrical, 52.615.

32. (24) Clint Bowyer, Chevrolet, 137, accident, 52.615.

33. (23) Matt Kenseth, Ford, 108, accident, 51.775.

34. (26) Mark Green, Chevrolet, 102, engine failure, 51.775.

35. (10) David Green, Chevrolet, 99, engine failure, 51.875.

36. (24) Steve Grissom, Chevrolet, 97, engine failure, 53.075.

37. (15) Brent Sherman, Dodge, 82, accident, 53.640.

38. (27) Tim Fedewa, Chevrolet, 80, accident, 53.640.

39. (22) Alan Ford, Dodge, 79, accident, 51.695.

40. (43) Tim Flock, Chevrolet, 10, engine failure, 51.835.

41. (20) Kevin Leape, Chevrolet, 17, engine failure, 51.840.

42. (12) Hermie Sadler, Chevrolet, 13, vibration, 51.875.

43. (22) Jeff Leary, Chevrolet, 15, suspension, 52.615.

44. (20) Casey Mears, Dodge, 15, suspension, 52.615.

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Scrappy Vols nip Georgia

Third-ranked 'Dawgs fall short on late drive

BY PAUL NEWBERRY
The Associated Press

ATHENS, Ga. — Tennessee hardly looked like the same team. Neither did Georgia.

Bouncing back from a dismal loss at home the week before, No. 17 Tennessee got two touchdown passes from freshman Erik Ainge and held on for a 19-14 upset of the third-ranked Bulldogs on Saturday.

The Volunteers (4-1, 2-1 Southeastern Conference) looked terrible in a 34-10 loss to Auburn — especially Ainge, who threw four interceptions and lost a fumble in his first college start.

The freshman was much better in his first college road game, helping end Georgia's 17-game winning streak between the hedges.

"Coach told us there is nothing like going into someone else's house and being able to come into the locker room and sing after the game," said Ainge, who completed 12 of 21 passes for 150 yards and — most importantly — didn't have a turnover.

Georgia (4-1, 2-1) didn't come close to duplicating its previous game, a near-perfect 45-16 rout of defending SEC champion LSU.

Quarterback David Greene struggled against Tennessee's zone coverages and the Bulldogs kept hurting themselves with penalties.

"I can't explain it," said Greene, who threw a chaotic second-quarter pass to Ainge against LSU. "I couldn't explain it last week, and I can't explain it today."

Greene was only 15-for-34 for 163 yards, failing to throw even one TD.

The Vols, 12½-point underdogs, built a quick 10-0 lead and held off the Bulldogs at the end. Georgia squandered a chance to take



Tennessee's Gerald Riggs (31) struggles for extra yardage as Georgia defenders Greg Blue (17), Thomas Davis (10) and Derrick White (53) haul him down in the fourth quarter Saturday. Riggs ran for 102 yards as No. 17 Tennessee surprised unbeaten and No. 3 Georgia 19-14.

control of the SEC East. Georgia, Tennessee and Florida tied for first place last season, with the Bulldogs claiming the spot in the SEC title game because of their higher ranking in the BCS.

"This is a tough loss for us," coach Mark Richt said. "It puts us behind the eight-ball in our division. We've got to keep winning. There's no margin for error."

Driving from its own 11 to the Tennessee 19, Georgia had one shot at the end zone with a second remaining. Appropriately, Greene's pass over the middle didn't come close to connecting with anyone, falling harmlessly to the ground.

Tennessee snapped a four-game losing streak in the series, beating Georgia for the first time since 1999.

"They didn't really say anything this week, but you could tell they didn't have a lot of respect for us," Ainge said.

Undeterred by Ainge's performance against Auburn, coach Phil Fulmer started

him again. The Vols' other freshman quarterback, Brent Schaeffer, played only one series. Tennessee built on a 13-7 lead after stuffing a fake punt by the Bulldogs late in the third quarter. Ainge threw a 4-yard touchdown pass to Chris Hannon that made it 19-7 with 1:04 remaining in the game.

The Bulldogs were their own worst enemy. After getting called for only one penalty against LSU, they were flagged 12 times for 82 yards. The most crucial call came in the second quarter, when Bryan McClendon returned a kickoff to the Tennessee 2, only to have it wiped out by Leonard Pope's holding penalty.

Also, Andy Bailey missed a 29-yard field goal that might have made things easier for the Bulldogs in the final minute.

Georgia made it close when Danny Ware bounced off a tackler to score on fourth-and-goal from the 1 with 4:22 remaining. The defense then forced a punt by twice stuffing Tennessee on short-yardage plays, but it didn't matter.

USC edges Calif.

BY RALPH D. RUSSO
The Associated Press

LOS ANGELES — Southern Cal seemed helpless as Aaron Rodgers picked away at its defense, hitting pass after pass.

But with California just 9 yards from a potential winning score, the Trojans finally found a way to stop the Golden Bears' near-perfect quarterback.

The top-ranked Trojans kept the seventh-ranked Bears out of the end zone after a first-and-goal with less than two minutes left and held on for a 23-17 victory Saturday.

"I was running on empty, our defense was running on empty, but I knew they weren't going to score," Trojans defensive end Shann Cody said.

USC (5-0, 2-0 Pac-10) extended its winning streak to 14 games and avenged its only loss in the last 26. The Bears' 34-31 triple-overtime victory last season kept the Trojans from claiming an undisputed national title.

Before Cal's final four plays, Rodgers was 29-for-31 for 267 yards and a touchdown.

"It's frustrating as a defense when a guy is on fire like that," Cody said. "You've just got to hold on and try to do something to stop them from the end zone."

That's just what the Trojans did after Rodgers' Cal (3-1, 1-1) to first-and-goal at the 9 with just under two minutes left.

Southern Cal got a sack and forced three incomplete passes.

Rodgers' final throw came with pressure coming and zipped by diving Geoff McArthur in the end zone, sending most of the more than 90,000 at the Los Angeles Coliseum into a frenzy and the Bears home with a hard-fought loss.

Matt Leinart threw two touchdown passes for the Trojans, who failed to get a first down in the fourth quarter.

"Anybody watching this game knows we really dominated the game. We just came up a little short in the score," said Rodgers, who tied an NCAA record by completing his first 23 passes.

It was the first time in 52 years the Golden Bears and Trojans met with both ranked in the top 10, and the much-awaited matchup lived up to the hype.

The teams traded touchdowns to start the third quarter, Leinart hooking up with Dwayne Jarrett on a 16-yard score and Marshawn Lynch plunging in from 2 yards out for Cal to make it 23-17.

Cal dominated the fourth quarter putting together two long drives. The only thing the Bears found in the fourth quarter.

"Bend but don't break, that's what this game became," Trojans coach Pete Carroll said.

Wisconsin feels at home in Ohio Stadium

BY RUSTY MILLER
The Associated Press

COLUMBUS, Ohio — Down 10-0, the Wisconsin Badgers had the Ohio State Buckeyes right where they wanted them.

The defense throttled No. 18 Ohio State and Anthony Davis slashed for 163 yards and a touchdown to lead No. 15 Wisconsin to a 24-13 victory Saturday.

It was Wisconsin's third straight victory on Ohio State's turf, the first time a visitor has done that since Illinois won four in a row from 1988-94. The Badgers had never before won even twice in a row at Ohio State in a series dating to 1913.

"We've been fortunate and played well," coach Barry Alvarez said. "It's nothing more than that."

Maybe it is. The last two times the Badgers came to town, Ohio

State broke out to a 17-0 lead and ended up losing 42-17 and 20-17. A year ago at Camp Randall Stadium, Matt Schaubert hit Lee Evans with a 79-yard pass in the fourth quarter for a 17-10 victory.

"We show a (film) clip on Friday night and I showed the third wins," Alvarez said. "Our guys are fighters. They're not going to fold their tents because they fell behind."

The loss ended Ohio State's 18-game home winning streak and, on the heels of last week's stunning 33-27 overtime loss to Northwestern, pinned coach Jim Tresselt with back-to-back losses for the first time in his 3½ seasons. The Buckeyes (3-2) also dropped to 0-2 in the Big Ten for the first time since 1992.

"All that talent we have out there, we should do more," said Ted Ginn Jr., who scored the Buckeyes' only touchdown on a

65-yard punt return in the first quarter.

Asked if it was difficult playing in the loud and raucous environment at Ohio Stadium, Wisconsin defensive end Erasmus James said simply, "I don't think it's tough."

Wisconsin, 3-0 in the Big Ten, is 6-0 for the first time since 1998. That year the Badgers finished 11-1, shared the Big Ten title and won the Rose Bowl.

Sophomore John Stocco was steady all day for the Badgers, completing 15 of 24 passes for 169 yards and two touchdowns without an interception.

"We didn't start off as well as we would have liked," Stocco said. "But we never quit and we never have. We just kept going, made a few plays and that was it."

He gave the Badgers a 14-7 lead with an 8-yard fade pass to Darrin Charles, then tossed a 10-yard scoring pass — also on a

fade pattern — to Jonathan Orr that capped the scoring. Orr's diving, highlight-reel catch came just three plays after Ohio State's Antonio Holmes muffed a punt, Wisconsin's Scott Starks shoving him aside and then falling on the loose ball at the Ohio State 17 early in the fourth quarter.

Meanwhile, Ohio State's own first-year starter at quarterback, sophomore Justin Zwick, and his ineffective offense were booed loudly by 105,090 partisan fans, the fifth-largest crowd in Ohio Stadium history.

Zwick completed 15 of 31 passes for 125 yards — with two of the completions and 27 of the yards coming in the final few seconds. Shortly after the game ended, several players exchanged punches at midfield while coaches and police tried to pull them apart. The melee lasted for less than a minute, but was representative of the bad blood between the teams in recent years.

Thanks to Lima, Dodgers still have life

Animated rightly tosses shutout as Los Angeles staves off sweep

BY JOHN NADEL
The Associated Press

LOS ANGELES — Never has "Lima Time" meant so much or been this good.

Jose Lima pitched a five-hitter Saturday night and the Los Angeles Dodgers staved off elimination in their first-round NL playoff series by beating the St. Louis Cardinals 4-0.

Steve Finley hit a two-run double and Shawn Green hit two solo homers as the Dodgers won their first postseason game since the 1988 World Series.

Lima, an animated 32-year-old right-hander who has struggled for much of the last five years, followed two miserable outings by Los Angeles starters with his first complete game since 2001.

"It doesn't get any better than this right here," Lima said. "I knew I was having a great game, but I didn't want to be too excited and get away from my game. I kept telling myself every batter, 'Jose, if you get this guy out, you will win the game.'"

Working against the team that led the NL in batting (.278) and runs (85), Lima pitched his second career shutout, striking out four and walking one.

Larry Walker, Albert Pujols and Scott Rolen, the Cardinals' 2-3-4 hitters, were combined 0-for-12. Jim Edmonds, who bats fifth, had two hits, as did leadoff hitter Tony Womack.

"I tried to keep at least one of those guys off base," Lima said of the Cardinals' heavy hitters. "I tried to stay away from big innings."

Lima pumped his fist, shouted and pointed at teammates in celebration and practically danced off the field after setting the Cardi-



Jose Lima was a man of many faces and emotions while pitching Los Angeles to a 4-0 victory over the St. Louis Cardinals on Saturday night.

nals down lining after inning. Before his warmup throws in the first inning, he used his finger to draw on the back of the mound the initials of his wife, son, mother and late grandmother, who died 2½ months ago.

"He's always been like that," Cardinals outfielder Reggie Sanders said. "One thing, on our part, you can't get too hyped up or too caught up on that. Lima has always been Lima. He tries to get you caught up in his world. He did tonight."

After he retired the Cardinals in the eighth, the crowd of 55,992 — largest at Dodger Stadium since Game 2 of the 1988 World Series — chanted, "Lima! Lima! Lima!" He came out of the dugout to take a certain call.

"I don't know that you can do it much better," Dodgers manager Jim Tracy said. "That's not bad for someone who came to spring training not guaranteed a job."

"I don't know that you can do it much better. That's not bad for someone who came to spring training not guaranteed a job."

Jim Tracy

Los Angeles Dodgers manager



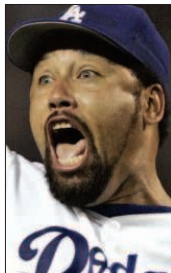
Lima signed a minor league contract with the Dodgers last winter. He went 21-10 with the Houston Astros in 1999, but was 7-16 the following year. He pitched in the independent league in 2003 before joining the Kansas City Royals in June.

Tracy said that, had the Cardinals gotten a runner on base in the ninth, he would have gone to closer Eric Gagne. It didn't happen, as Lima retired Pujols and Rolen on fly balls and Edmonds on a popout.

Cardinals manager Tony La Russa said few of Lima's 109 pitches went down the middle.

"We had a lot of trouble getting to the top of the ball, made a lot of outs in the air," La Russa said. "He did a very good job."

Odalis Perez, rocked for six runs in 2½ innings in Tuesday's opener, drew the Sunday night start for the Dodgers against Jeff Suppan. A fifth and deciding



game, if necessary, would be played Monday night in St. Louis. No NL team has won the division series after falling behind 0-2 in the expanded playoffs began in 1995.

Los Angeles had lost eight postseason games in a row since beating Oakland in the 1988 World Series. The Dodgers were swept 3-0 by Cincinnati in 1995 and by Atlanta the following year, then didn't get back to the playoffs until this year, when they twice lost 8-3 in St. Louis.

Lima, 9-1 with a 3.08 ERA at Dodger Stadium this season, faced more than four batters in an inning only once — when the Cardinals put two on with two outs in the fifth. Losing pitcher Matt Morris grounded into a forecourt to end the threat.

Green hit solo homers off Morris in the fourth and sixth to give Los Angeles a 4-0 lead, both blows sending the crowd into a frenzy.



The Dodgers, unable to get a clutch hit in the first two games, got one in the third when Finley hit a two-out, two-run double. It's his only hit in 12 at-bats in this series.

Los Angeles got a big break earlier in the inning. Alex Cora was hit by a pitch and went to third on Brent Mayne's single. It appeared Lima's bunt bounced up and hit his bat as he left the batter's box, meaning it should have been ruled a foul ball or he should have been called out. Cardinals catcher Mike Matheny threw to second, but Mayne was safe, leaving the bases loaded.

"They went and discussed it and they didn't see it," La Russa said of the umpiring crew. "You can't call it if you don't see it."

Morris retired the next two batters before Finley sliced a broken-bat double inside third.

Green opened the fourth by hitting a 2-0 pitch over the left-center wall and hit the first pitch from Morris over the right field fence with two outs in the sixth.

Morris, pitching for the second time since Sept. 20, gave up four runs and six hits in seven innings before being lifted for a pinch hitter.

Newcomers Backe, Beltran push Braves to brink

BY JOEL ANDERSON
The Associated Press

HOUSTON — A couple of new Killers Bs have the Houston Astros one victory away from ending 43 seasons of playoff failure.

Carlos Beltran hit a two-run homer and Brandon Backe pitched six innings in his postseason debut to lead the Astros to their 19th straight home victory, 8-5 over Atlanta on Saturday for a 2-1 lead in an NL playoff series.

Hoping to clinch the first playoff series victory in club history, Roger Clemens was scheduled to pitch Sunday on three days' rest for the first time this season. The Rocket, winner of his last four postseason decisions, faced off with Atlanta's Russ Ortiz.

"I was praying to be in this kind of situation, where every game

means something," said Beltran, traded from last-place Kansas City at midseason. "Being around so many good players in the clubhouse has helped me to become a better player."

Houston has a humiliating history of October failure, having lost seven series overall and failed to advance to the first round in 1997, 1999 and 2001. With help from new guys like Beltran and Backe, and timely contributions from Jeff Bagwell, Craig Biggio and Lance Berkman, the wild-card Astros took a deep breath or moved wrong, it hurt."

Thomson was replaced by Paul Byrd, who took the loss after giving up four runs on four hits in 4½ innings.

"I know this team is hot here," Byrd said. "But I didn't feel like they were unbeatable."

ing earned a split in Atlanta and stealing homefield advantage.

The Braves got off to a bad start Saturday. Starter John Thomson threw only four pitches before leaving after reagravating the muscle pull in his side that forced him out of the final game of the regular season.

"It didn't hurt when I was warming up, but I just couldn't pitch," Thomson said. "I don't know how to explain it. It just popped. I was walking the stairs to go back into the dugout, and it felt like a deep breath or moved wrong, it hurt."

Thomson was replaced by Paul Byrd, who took the loss after giving up four runs on four hits in 4½ innings.

"I know this team is hot here," Byrd said. "But I didn't feel like they were unbeatable."

The return home did wonders for the Astros, who didn't have a hit over the final 5½ innings and finished with only four in Game 2 on Thursday.

Beltran went 2-for-5 after going hitless in five at-bats in Game 2. Morgan Ensberg had three RBIs and Berkman, Jeff Kent and Mike Lamb each drove in runs.

Brad Lidge got the final three outs for the save, recovering nicely from a blown save in Game 2, when he pitched a season-high 2½ innings.

Andrew Jones hit a three-run homer in the eighth for the Braves and Johnny Estrada also connected.

Needless to say, Backe had a much better afternoon than Thomson.

A reliever until moving into the

rotation in August, Backe showed the same uncommon poise he displayed when he stepped in for the ailing Clemens for Houston's play-off-clinching victory in the regular-season finale.

"He pitched, for me, just like a veteran," Braves manager Bobby Cox said. "I thought he was outstanding."

Backe worked his way out of a bases-loaded jam in the second, striking out Byrd with a 93 mph fastball to end the inning. Backe also shook off Estrada's homer and Jones' RBI double in the fourth, retiring the final seven batters he faced.

When Backe struck out Jones to end the sixth, Houston's largest crowd of the season — 43,547 — saluted him with a standing ovation.

His final numbers were solid: two runs, five hits, five strikeouts and two walks.

Red Sox vs. Yankees: Here we go again

MINNEAPOLIS — There was champagne precipitation in the clubhouse, but it was actually a light drizzle instead of a steady downpour. The Yankees had no appetite for an all-out, we-own-the-night party, even after taking down the Twins in the AL Division Series — not with the scent of the Red Sox already in the air.

"This is what everyone wants, us against Boston. It's the way it's supposed to be," is how GM Brian Cashman put it.

He's right, of course. The AL Division Series was just calisthenics for the real war — the millennium struggle against the Red Sox, which begins Tuesday night in the Bronx.

By then, the images of the Yankees' 6-5, 11-inning win over Minnesota in Game 4 will have turned to mist, even the moments of real theater. The Bombers rallied from a four-run deficit in the eighth inning, tying it on Ruben Sierra's three-run home run. And in the 11th, it was Alex Rodriguez who combined power and speed and old-fashioned guts to break the Twins' hearts for good.

"They've got so many hitters and that's

what kills you," manager Ron Gardenhire was saying. He was talking about A-Rod, but, really, the Twins were beat by a Yankees' collective will that, in October, borders on the surreal.

Will it translate into the AL Championship Series? It's the question of the summer, if not the ages. The Yankees and Sox have faced each other 19 times in 2004, but we're already treating No. 20 as if it were the beginning of the apocalypse. That's why the Yankees used the Twins to raise their body temperature, offered poise thanks for giving them a few tough games and then moved on.

The Bombers know the crowds at Fenway won't be as polite as those in the Metrodome. Polite? It'll be an open-air asylum. Even the stoic John Olerud is bracing for the onslaught, saying "I'll be like the regular season, but crazier."

Bob Klapisch



The Yankees know the Red Sox are meaner than the Twins, and more dangerous hitters. They're looser, more reckless — and utterly unafraid of the postseason. Indeed, the greatest difference now is the fear factor: The Twins were in awe of the Red Sox, not it's hard to imagine the Red Sox self-destructing the way the Twins did this weekend. The Central Division champs made several foolish baserunning mistakes while they were down by six runs in Game 3, and allowed the Yankees to come roaring back in Game 4.

All the Twins needed was six more outs, just six, and the Series would've shifted back to the Bronx on Sunday night for a nine-inning shootout. The Yankees would've had the home-field advantage, but they would've been tired and without any real bullets left in their bullpen.

Not only. But the Yankees delivered a critical blow against Juan Rincon in the eighth, when Sierra blasted an 0-2 slider over the wall in right-center. His line drive blast was a death blow to the Twins, who by now had figured out the Yankees might as well have come from another universe.

"They just keep coming at you. They find a way," Gardenhire said, shaking his head. Of the home run, Sierra coolly said, "I knew it was gone" not bothering to acknowledge that, buried so deeply in the game, he should've been history.

Through the celebrating that followed, though, the Yankees never really broke out of the corporate mood. Not while the Red Sox were, whispering in their ears.

The ghosts were there, all right — from the team bus, to the charter plane, deep into the night. Starting today, the Yankees turns into a shout, and by Tuesday, there'll be a wall of sound from Fenway to the Bronx.

Game on. AL Championship Series. No millennium war must definitely on.

Bob Klapisch is a sports columnist for The Record of Bergen County, N.J.

Yankees: Twins just a bump in the road

YANKES, FROM BACK PAGE

Lohse pitched a perfect 10th and started the 11th by handing Derek Jeter his third strikeout of the afternoon, but Rodriguez laced his second double of the game down the left-field line and stole third base on unsuspecting catcher Pat Borders — who didn't throw.

Then Lohse bounded a pitch to Sheffield that skipped past Borders, allowing Rodriguez to race home with the winning run.

That wild pitch silenced the Metrodome, where fans thought their team would do better this year against the Yankees, who won their seventh straight AL East title. The Twins were on the verge of a 2-0 series lead Wednesday night when closer Joe Nathan failed to hold a one-run lead in the 12th inning.

"Even with a 5-1 lead I wasn't comfortable," Twins center fielder Tony Hunter said. "I know with the talent they have over

there, anything can happen. And it did."

The Twins, who won the AL Central for the third consecutive year, missed several chances to score in this game and head into another off-season unsure how many players they'll be able to afford next year.

"We gave them a scare over there," said third baseman Corey Koskie, who will be a free agent. "I thought this was the year that we could beat them."

Light-hitting Henry Blanco's leadoff homer and Lew Ford's two-out, two-run double broke it open against Vazquez in the fifth, giving the Twins a four-run cushion.

Santana was in the same situation last year, needing a strong performance to keep the Twins' season going. He gave up six runs and failed to survive the fourth inning.

Throwing on three days' rest for the first time in his major league career, Santana — who

put at least one runner on in each of seven shutout innings against New York in Game 1 — clearly wasn't strong.

Seventeen of his first 34 pitches were balls, and the Yankees smartly and patiently worked the count deep against the 25-year-old left-hander.

But Santana, who went 13-0 in his final 15 regular-season starts and led the league in strikeouts and ERA, did just what he was asked to do: He left to the lead and let the bullpen do the rest.

"We batted our tails off," Gardenhire said.

Grant Balfour pitched two perfect innings, and Sierra's homer was New York's first extra-base hit. But the first three Yankees reached against Juan Rincon in the eighth, with Bernie Williams driving in Gary Sheffield with a single to make it 5-2.

One out later, Sierra crushed a 2-2 pitch into the folded-up seats in right-center field as Jeter and Rodriguez jumped up off the bench in celebration.

Major League Baseball scorecard

S-B-Backs, SF-Lamb., SP-HRER BB SO

Atlanta 2-1, Yankees 3-1, Twins 0-1, Red Sox 0-1

Minnesota 2-1, Yankees 3-1, Twins 0-1, Red Sox 0-1

New York 7-1, Yankees 3-1, Twins 0-1, Red Sox 0-1

St. Louis 1-1, Yankees 3-1, Twins 0-1, Red Sox 0-1

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Los Angeles 1-1, Yankees 3-1, Twins 0-1, Red Sox 0-1

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San Francisco 1

Stewart slams NASCAR for Junior's penalty

By MIKE HARRIS
The Associated Press

KANSAS CITY, Kan. — Tony Stewart took a verbal swipe at NASCAR on Saturday, insisting driver and competitor Dale Earnhardt Jr. should not have lost points for cursing during a live TV interview last weekend.

Instead of leading by 13 points, Earnhardt entered Sunday's Banquet 400 at Kansas Speedway trailing Kurt Busch by 12 points after the third of 10 races in NASCAR's new playoff-style championship format. Junior was fined \$10,000 and docked 25 points for using inappropriate language during the interview in Victory Lane at Talladega.

Stewart, long NASCAR's bad boy, is no stranger to penalties.

Most recently, he was fined \$50,000, had 25 points taken away and was placed on probation for allegedly hitting Brian Vickery during a post-race confrontation in June at Sonoma.

But the severity of Earnhardt's penalty irritated the 2002 series champion.

"I think we're starting to nitpick and scrutinize way too much in this series," the often outspoken Stewart said. "Since when does something that somebody says have an effect on winning the championship? 'What he said didn't cheat anybody on the race track. It didn't have any effect on how the race was run. That (penalty) can have an effect on millions of dollars and how their sponsors have to handle this team, and the pressure it has put on their own. It's been totally unfair to him and his race team."

Stewart also wondered what other mistakes might result in a penalty from NASCAR.

"What's going to be the next thing?" he asked. "If we don't show up to the car for practice on time we are going to lose 25 points for that next? Where is it realistically going to end?"

NASCAR spokesman Jim Hunter said he talked with Stewart about his objections to the Earnhardt penalty.

"I appreciate Tony's candor, and I think everybody else in NASCAR management appreciates that candor," Hunter said. "This is another case where there is some strong disagreement."

Earnhardt suggested on Friday that NASCAR consider changing its policy on

non-competition penalties and simply raising the fines to \$100,000 or \$200,000 for slips of the tongue like his.

The reason we got into penalizing points as opposed to just money was because penalizing money was not getting the job done," Hunter said. "Whether you agree or disagree, we promote this sport as a family sport. As a result of that, to get their attention, we use the loss of points."

Hunter also pointed to the precedent that was set earlier this year when Busch Series driver Johnny Sauter and Ron Hornaday Jr. were both docked 10 points for cursing during live radio interviews.

"In this particular instance, with the precedent having been set, we think this was the right decision," Hunter said. "At the end of this season, as we do every year, I'm sure we'll review the whole season."

Americans now closer to securing finals slot

By ELOY O. AGUILAR
The Associated Press

SAN SALVADOR, El Salvador — Thanks to Brian McBride and Eddie Johnson, the United States can advance to the finals round of qualifying for the 2006 World Cup after a victory over Panama next week.

McBride scored in the 29th minute and Johnson, making his international debut, added a goal in the 75th to lead the United States over El Salvador 2-0 Saturday night.

"You do not win too many games on the road in World Cup qualifying," U.S. coach Bruce Arena said. "We finished this round without losing a game on the road, so I think that's a big plus for our team."

The United States (2-0-2) leads Group A of the North and Central American and Caribbean semifinals with eight points, three ahead of Jamaica and Panama (both 1-1-2), who played a 1-1 tie Saturday night in Panama City.

The Americans, who extended their unbeaten streak to 11 games, can clinch a berth in next year's six-nation regional finals with a victory Wednesday over Panama in Washington, D.C. After that, the United States closes the round Nov. 17 against Jamaica at Columbus, Ohio.

McBride took a pass from Kerry Zavagnin on the left side in the 29th minute, cut past defender Victor Velasquez and beat goalkeeper Misael Alfaro to the far post for his 26th goal in 81 international appearances.

"When I received the ball, I just tried to shield it and turn," McBride said. "I faked the shot, and the second time I was going



United States' Brian McBride moves the ball against El Salvador on Saturday in San Salvador. McBride scored to help the U.S. win 2-0.

to hit it but I faked again and they fell off again, and the ball set up for the third time and I struck it pretty well."

Johnson replaced McBride in the 71st minute and scored four minutes into his first appearance with the national team. DaMarcus Beasley slotted the ball to Landon Donovan, who got by defender Marvin Gonzalez and sent the ball across to Johnson, who kicked it into the open net with his left foot from 2 yards out.

"I was lucky. I was in the right place at the right time," said Johnson, who has scored 11 goals for Dallas in Major League Soccer since 2001. "I moved into the box, and Landon made a very unselfish play to pass the ball."

U.S. goalkeeper Casey Keller was rarely tested, having to make only two saves. With Claudio Reyna sidelined by a quadricusps

injury, Donovan was the U.S. captain for the first time.

"The second-highest honor is playing for your country, and the highest honor is wearing the armband for your country," Donovan said. "It shows that the players have confidence in me, and that feels good."

The United States started an offense-minded lineup that included McBride, Donovan, Clint Mathis and Josh Wolff.

McBride put the ball in the net in the sixth minute, but Wolff was called for offsides, negating the goal. Mathis had a great chance to score in the 15th minute off a pass from Beasley but missed the ball.

"I think the first half we were a little sloppy in different parts of the field, but I think in the second half we were much more solid," Arena said. "Obviously, we could have scored more goals."

Nemechek nips Biffle to claim Busch title

The Associated Press

KANSAS CITY, Kan. — Joe Nemechek kept Tony Stewart winless in the NASCAR Busch Series, then earned his first victory of the season in the series' closest race this year.

Stewart, who has a Winston Cup championship and an Indy Racing League title but has never won a Busch race, dominated all but the last few laps Saturday at Kansas Speedway. But Nemechek reeled him in after a late restart, and Stewart was trying to hold him off when the two made contact in the backstretch with 1 1/2 laps to go.

"He just kept coming and coming, and I said, 'Please, please, don't come all the way up,'" said Nemechek, whose victory was the 16th of his Busch career. "But he came up, and his bumper poked a hole in the nose of my car, and he went into the wall."

Stewart spun into the backstretch wall, forcing a three-lap shootout that, combined with a caution lap, added 6 miles to the Mr. Goodcents 300.

Nemechek, who will start Sunday's Nextel Cup race on the pole, held off Greg Biffle by .041 of a second.

"He just had a little more steam to the stripe," Biffle said, adding that neither Nemechek nor Stewart was to blame for the crash that took Stewart out.

"He was looking in the mirror, trying to mirror drive (Nemechek's No. 87)," Biffle said. "Someone said it looked like Joe never let up, so you can't tell once a car starts darting off like that."

Stewart, who finished 25th, left the track without competing, while Nemechek said he felt compelled to apologize to his friend.

"It was one of those racing deals," he said. "I don't ever turn anyone, especially not on purpose."

Other wrecks kept the top two drivers from gaining much ground in the standings.

Points leader Martin Truex Jr. crashed in the third lap and did not return until the 47th lap, finishing 30th.

But Kyle Busch, who came into the race trailing Truex by 152 points, could not capitalize. He

Racing roundup

crashed in the 81st lap, was out for 27 laps and finished 29th — gaining just three points on the leader.

Michael Schumacher wins 13th race of season

SUZUKA, Japan — Michael Schumacher won his first race since August and 13th of the season Sunday by claiming his sixth Japanese Grand Prix.

After having his troubles, including a 12th-place finish in the Chinese Grand Prix for his worst finish in a race since 1999, the seven-time world champion returned to his dominant form.

"I didn't think too much about what happened at the last Grand Prix. I don't really take that into account, questioning anything," Schumacher said. "There wasn't really the extra pressure."

He won 12 of the 13 races with Ferrari, then failed to win the previous three, before gaining his 83rd career victory Sunday.

Schumacher was ahead of brother Ralf in a Williams-BMW at the end of 53 laps of the 3.699-mile Suzuka circuit.

BAR-Honda had Button and Takuma Sato in third and fourth, all clinching second in the season standings. Fernando Alonso of Renault was fifth.

It was Michael Schumacher's first victory since the Hungarian GP in August 1999, when he won the Japanese GP. Ferrari has won every Japanese GP since 1999, with three different drivers — Eddie Irvine 1999, Schumacher 2000-2002 and 2004 and Rubens Barrichello 2003.

"Coming here to Suzuka, which is a circuit I like very much, it's just a great feeling," said Schumacher, who also won here for Ferrari in 1997 and Benetton in 1995.

Despite clinching the 2004 title with a second at the Belgian GP behind Kimi Raikkonen, the German won't winless in three straight races, while teammate Barrichello took the last two.

Raikkonen was sixth for McLaren with Juan Pablo Montoya of Williams seventh.



HAVEN'T RECEIVED YOUR ABSENTEE BALLOT?

If you have applied to vote absentee and haven't yet received your state ballot, you have two options:

- 1 Use The Federal Write In Absentee Ballot (FWAB).
See Your Unit Voting Assistance Officer To Get A FWAB.
- 2 If Your Unit Is Out Of FWABs, e-mail vote@fvap.ncr.gov

Florida Voters

Florida allows overseas citizens to receive blank ballots by fax or email! You may also return your voted ballot by fax!

Contact your County Supervisor of Elections for more information.

Find your County Supervisor of Elections contact info here:
<http://election.dos.state.fl.us/county/index.shtml>

Make sure your ballot arrives by November 12th!

Washington Voters

If you haven't received your ballot yet, some WA counties will email your blank ballot to you. Some counties will allow you to fax your ballot back.

Email your County auditor to ask for your ballot and if you can fax it back. For auditor addresses:

<http://www.secsate.wa.gov/elections/auditors.aspx>

Mail your ballot before Nov. 2 and make sure your ballot arrives by November 17th!

SPORTS



Top-ranked USC avenges last season's wild loss to No. 7 California, Page 24

New York ready for rematch

Red Sox await after Yankees' 11th-inning win in Minnesota

BY DAVE CAMPBELL
The Associated Press

MINNEAPOLIS — For Alex Rodriguez and the New York Yankees, Minnesota proved to be little more than a speed bump, barely slowing them down on their race to meet the Red Sox.

A big home run by Ruben Sierra, a timely 11th-inning hit by Rodriguez and the Yankees beat the Twins 6-5 Saturday to win the first-round playoff series in four games — and a date with Boston for the AL pennant.

"This is what everybody drew up in spring training and now everybody gets to see what it's all about," Yankees star Gary Sheffield said. "When Schilling went to the Red Sox and when A-Rod came here, that's what everybody wanted to see."

The AL championship series opens Tuesday night at Yankee Stadium, with Curt Schilling likely to start for the Red Sox against Mike Mussina.

Sierra's three-run homer in the eighth inning tied it, then Rodriguez doubled, alertly stole third base and scored in the 11th on Kyle Lohse's wild pitch.

Rodriguez hit .421 in the series, best among the Yankees, with three doubles and a home run.

"What makes you a complete player and a winning player is being asked to the little things," Rodriguez said. "You can't play big ball all the time."

Minnesota led 5-1 behind ace Johan Santana before another New York rally. The Yankees came from behind for all three wins in this series after setting a major league record with 61 comeback victories during the regular season. Nine of those were from deficits of four runs or more.

"I've never been around so many guys that believe in themselves," Rodriguez said. "We have so many guys with big, big hearts."

Said Twins manager Ron Gardenhire: "They find a way. They've just got so many great hitters."

For the second straight year, New York lost the first-round opener to Minnesota, then won three straight and advanced to



NEWSDAY/KRT

Alex Rodriguez celebrates as the New York Yankees beat the Minnesota Twins 6-5 in 11 innings in Game 4 of their playoff series Saturday. New York won the series 3-1.

the AL championship series.

The Yankees won that matchup with the Red Sox last October on Aaron Boone's homer in the 11th inning of Game 7, then lost 4-2 to Florida in the World Series.

Boston spent the offseason competing with the Yankees for Rodriguez and others, then went 11-8 against the Yankees this year, finishing three games back in the AL East but winning the wild card. The

Pitched battles



Astros turn to Rocket to close out Braves after Game 3 win

Page 28



Lima mystifies Cards as L.A. stays alive

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Red Sox then swept Anaheim in the first round.

Winning pitcher Mariano Rivera, who blew a rare postseason save chance in the eighth inning of Game 2, retired six straight batters to finish a stifling performance by the Yankees bullpen. After Javier Vazquez allowed five runs in five innings, Esteban Loaiza and Tom Gordon each threw two scoreless innings.

SEE YANKEES ON PAGE 29

West Point football fans have reason to celebrate for first time in two years

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17th-ranked Tennessee turns around season with surprising victory over No. 3 Georgia

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NASCAR black sheep Stewart comes to Earnhardt's defense on cursing penalty

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